

Lawson forced to rethink on Budget plans

Income tax may be cut by only 1p in pound

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Worries over the level of pay settlements and Britain's deteriorating balance of payments position have forced the Chancellor to plan a more cautious Budget next month.

The giveaway is likely to be restricted to £3 billion instead of a possible £10 billion, with perhaps only 1p off the basic rate of income tax.

Radical reforms of married couples' personal taxation are to be phased in over a three year period, in line with new Inland Revenue computer systems.

Pay trends have become an increasing worry for ministers in both the Treasury and the Department of Employment.

The Budget on March 15

will contain cuts in the basic and higher rates of income tax, on a scale yet to be decided, but Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, is likely to opt for a relatively cautious package now with the promise of further action later, as part of a medium-term tax strategy.

Treasury officials have been alarmed by City estimates that the Chancellor could have as much as £10 billion to give away on tax in the Budget.

Instead, the Chancellor is likely to limit the total giveaway to no more than £3 billion.

Pay gap — 23
This would still allow the widely-expected reductions in the top rate from 60 to 50 per cent, and in the basic rate from 27 to 25 per cent.

However, Mr Lawson may restrict his basic rate cut to 1p in the pound, to underline his cautious approach.

The Chancellor is likely to set a target for the public sector borrowing requirement of zero, or a small net repayment, for the financial year beginning in April.

This week's Bank of England-inspired rise in base rates, sanctioned by the Treasury, confirmed official concern over inflationary pressures. There are also political difficulties in making large tax cuts when there is pressure for higher National Health Service spending.

In addition, technical difficulties will prevent the immediate implementation of the centrepiece of the personal tax reforms — significant changes in the taxation of husband and wife — proposed by the Chancellor at last October's Conservative Party Conference.

The computerization of the PAYE system, regarded as an essential first step before changing to a new system of husband and wife taxation, has now been virtually completed in the Inland Revenue.

Computerization in Scotland will be completed later this year, as will the procedures for taxing income from the self-employed.

But the Inland Revenue still requires another two years to move to a radically different system of husband and wife taxation. A "tax census" would have to be conducted to obtain information not presently available, and a system would have to be set up for linking the tax records of husbands and wives, whose tax affairs are often dealt with at different tax offices.

An Inland Revenue spokesman said this work could not be started until the Chancellor approved the tax changes, and that the system could not be operative for two years.

A three-year transition to a system under which a substantial part of a wife's tax allowance was transferable to

her spouse would cost between £1 billion and £1.5 billion a year. This cost would arise from the gradual elimination of the gap between the single and married tax allowances.

The Ford pay offer and the Government's difficulties over nurses' pay have created concern in the financial markets about a new wage-price spiral.

Mr Steven Bell, the chief economist at Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, said: "We have had the fall in unemployment and labour shortages are emerging. Wages are the number-one source of inflationary pressure and the public sector is due for a catch-up on pay."

Mr Nigel Richardson, an economist at Warburg Securities, said: "The risks are on the upside for pay settlements. The economy has been buoyant, there are skills shortages and these are spreading into medium and low-tech industries."

Towards the end of last year, the 12-month growth rate of average earnings moved up to 8.25 per cent, while the rate of inflation moved down to 3.7 per cent.

Last year, when productivity growth rates in manufacturing of 6 or 7 per cent were regularly achieved, strong



Mr Nigel Lawson: Cautious package of tax cuts.

growth in average earnings occurred alongside small increases in unit labour costs.

But this year, when output growth is due to slow markedly, lower rates of productivity growth alongside continued high earnings growth could mean increases in unit labour costs substantially higher than for competitors.

Incomes Data Services, which monitors pay trends, says the main development in the present pay round has been the disappearance of the very low settlements which were a feature of last year. Of about 30 pay settlements in January, roughly half were higher than the previous year's deal, and the remainder broadly the same.

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Several injured as police halt Whitehall march



Nurses marching to Downing Street find their way blocked by a police line. Several protesters were hurt in the crash (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Shake-up plan cuts jobs in Whitehall

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

A plan to cut the number of civil servants in central London offices from 108,000 to 20,000 has been backed by the Prime Minister. It will also allow departments to set their own pay rates and recruitment standards.

The plan, contained in a report to Mrs Thatcher from Sir Robin Ibbot, the Imperial Chemicals Industries executive serving part time as her efficiency adviser, has been the subject of tense inter-departmental struggles.

For the past six months it was stalled between the Cabinet Office and the Treasury, where officials are deeply concerned about its implications for the control of public expenditure and pay.

Others, notably the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise, are enthusiastic about being able to run their operations autonomously, provided they meet performance standards set by ministers.

Sir Robin's report, *The Next Steps*, followed up work done over the past seven years by the Efficiency Unit, a small group of officials based in the Cabinet Office, which is estimated to have saved £1 billion in running costs.

Sir Robin recommends a two-stage process of devolution of responsibility within Whitehall. In the first, such units as the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre, in Swansea, south Wales, would be hived off from the Department of Transport.

In the second, departments would be given freedom from Treasury rules on how much they pay their officials.

Operations cancelled as nurses go on strike

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Hundreds of operations were cancelled throughout the country yesterday as thousands of nurses went on strike under the Government's proposals.

Health service unions said yesterday that 2,500 nurses took strike action in London.

However, in many short-staffed hospitals, particularly in London, nurses remained on wards to provide emergency cover and hospitals said that no patients had been harmed by the action.

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However, in its evidence to the nurses' pay review body, the Government suggests that pay should be flexible and some nurses in London could earn increments worth an

extra 9 to 12 per cent. In some short-staffed specialties, such as paediatrics, a few nurses could get rises of up to 18 per cent under the Government's proposals.

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Pit closed shop may be stopped

By Roland Radd

British Coal yesterday risked provoking the pit deputies into an all-out strike when it announced it intended ending their closed shop.

The board is seeking a change in the law to allow colliery managers, without safety certificates, to do the job of deputies.

In a move to break the pit deputies' power to bring coalfields to a standstill, Sir Robert Haslam, chairman of British Coal, said the closed shop of the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shotfirers (Nacods) could not be justified.

He said that if Nacods members did not end their industrial action by the end of this week, the board would cease to deduct union subscriptions from wages, plunging Nacods into financial crisis.

British Coal believes it is in a strong position to break the power of Nacods after the NUM conference rejected Mr Arthur Scargill's advice to escalate the overtime ban and voted for a ballot which is expected to bring the four-

Continued on page 20, col 7

Nuclear leak alert from test message

By Nicholas Beeson

A test message describing a fictitious nuclear accident in the Soviet Union caused panic in Western Europe yesterday as nuclear radiation monitoring agencies in Scandinavia prepared for another Chernobyl disaster.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna said the scare was caused by a week-old test message it sent to meteorological offices in Europe via the Global Telecommunications System.

"The message was preceded quite clearly with the words 'test-test' and related to a nuclear leak," said a spokesman for the UK Meteorological Office in Bracknell. "It may be that someone on the GTS circuit picked it up by mistake and because they were not involved believed it was a real alert."

Rumours of a nuclear accident emerged at the start of the week and were fuelled by

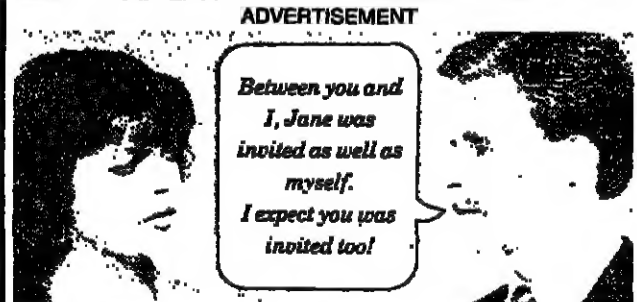
the announcement in the Soviet Union on Monday of a toxic spillage at Yareoslavl.

In Sweden the Radiation Protection Institute and other monitoring stations in northern Europe went on red alert but reported no increases in radiation levels.

As confusion spread in the West, the Soviet Ministry of Atomic Power Generation was forced to issue a denial.

Embarrassed IAEA officials said the test was designed "to improve communications" and was "successful". It was aimed at co-ordinating information with the weather monitoring network which could be used as an early warning system in the event of a genuine nuclear accident.

NEW YORK: Stocks recovered after it appeared that rumours of a Soviet nuclear accident had come from a test telex (Reuters reports). The market had sunk as the rumours depressed stocks.



Shamed By Your Mistakes In English?

Many people use such expressions as "Jane was invited as well as myself," and "was you going tonight?"

Still others say "between you and I" instead of "between you and me". It is astonishing how often "who" is used for "whom" and how frequently we hear such glaring mispronunciations as "homorRR" and "resurrection" whether at home, at work, or even in casual conversation with new acquaintances. You will learn how to increase your vocabulary, speed up your reading, enhance your powers of conversation, and tremendously improve your grammar, writing and speaking — all in your spare time at home.

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WIN £32,000

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

● Yesterday's daily Portfolio prize was shared by four readers (see page 3), but there is still £32,000 in the new Portfolio Accumulator fund that could be won today, plus of course another £4,000 daily prize.

● The Accumulator jackpot will be won by a reader with a number higher than the daily total, or, on Saturdays, higher than the weekly total.

Rules and how to play, page 19

Portfolio list, page 25

IN PART 2

Crash call

Mr David Ruder, chairman of the US Securities and Exchange Commission, asked Congress for new powers to regulate the financial system after Black Monday. Page 21

Drug inquiry

The administrators of British athletics yesterday named the committee which will investigate drug-taking in the sport following a series of articles in *The Times*. Page 40

Manager out

The Football Association of Wales dismissed Mike England, the national team manager, who suggested that David Williams of Norwich City would be an ideal successor. Page 40

How to win

The man or woman who sticks with the winners in business will become a winner too, says Mr Roy Bishko, chairman of Tie Rack, in the introduction to today's General Appointments section. Pages 27-32

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Crown Suppliers to be sold off

The Government announced yesterday that it is to sell off the Crown Suppliers, the agency which supplies £240 million worth of furniture, cars and equipment to Whitehall offices each year.

Mr Christopher Chope, the Under-Secretary of the Environment with responsibility for property services, told the Commons that privatization offered the "brightest future" for the agency at a time when departments were being encouraged to make their own arrangements for the supply of goods and services.

It is likely that the agency will be sold by auction rather than floated on the Stock Exchange. Civil Service unions oppose privatization and the option of a management buy-out. Hollis, a furniture and property concern owned by Mr Robert Maxwell, has shown interest in acquisition.

Crown Suppliers have about 2,000 staff in London and provincial offices. They would get no special protection if the agency was broken up, Mr Chope said.

Parliament, page 4

Whisky galore

Exports of Scotch whisky last year were the highest since 1982. The volume was up 2 per cent on 1986, and the value rose 6 per cent to £1,135 million.

By far the biggest increase was in single malts, with a 12 per cent rise in exports.

Mr Ivan Straker, chairman of the Scotch Whisky Association public affairs committee, said: "The most encouraging aspect was the continued strong showing of the bottled-in-Scotland brands, on which the world-wide reputation of Scotch whisky rests".

£475,000 damages

Three tunnel fitters who contracted a hip disease while working on the second Dartford tunnel in Kent were awarded a total of £475,000 damages in the High Court in London yesterday.

The agreed awards, with costs, were against the Balfour Beatty construction company, who denied liability. Mr George Brenner, aged 46, of Hornsey, north London, received £210,000. Mr Leslie Velvin, aged 43, of Dagenham, Essex, £155,000 and Mr Anthony Belcher, aged 43, of Chadwell Heath, Essex, £110,000.

Dodgers caught

About 20,000 television licence dodgers have been tracked down in the latest Post Office anti-evasion drive. The investigators will cover the South of England this month before going to the Midlands in March.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, the Post Office chairman, yesterday described the campaign as one of the most successful ever.

The number of licence evaders discovered was 6,000 more than during the same period of last year's campaign, and 34,000 new licences had been taken out.

Vote on Ford offer

Production at Ford main plants was disrupted for the third day running yesterday as workers held mass meetings to hear shop stewards' views of the latest pay offer.

Voting by Ford's 32,500 workers began in the morning and is not expected to be completed until the weekend. If the vote is lost an all-out strike could again be called.

Workers stand to get an immediate 7 per cent increase on basic rates and two subsequent annual rises making the average production worker about £41 a week better off.

Cambridge inquiry chief is named

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

Sir Douglas Wass, a former Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, is to lead a wide-ranging inquiry into the way Cambridge University is governed, it was announced yesterday.

The inquiry represents a victory for the 200 dons who signed a petition saying the system of government, which dates from 1926, is inefficient and undemocratic.

Sir Douglas, who was an undergraduate at St John's College, Cambridge in the early 1940s, will head a committee of eight or nine members, including some who have had no connection with the university.

Brittan urges overhaul of tax system

Mr Leon Brittan yesterday called on the Government to limit mortgage interest tax relief and pension relief to the basic rate.

That would provide an extra £1.75 billion for other tax reforms, the former Treasury minister and Trade and Industry secretary said.

Cutting the basic rate of tax to 25p had become "a political imperative" and the top rate must come down to 50p to counter the brain drain, Mr Brittan told King's Lynn Chamber of Trade.

The Chancellor should end the "scandalous injustice" of the tax treatment of married women and greatly increase personal allowances.

"Our aim should be to go back to the situation which existed before the war, when income tax was only paid by those who were comparatively well off." That would create jobs by enabling employers to take on more people at wages they could afford.

All at sea on an island without ferries

By Alan Hamilton

Each evening Andrew and Sally Hardman sit down on garden chairs in the carpet-less living room of their new home near Douglas to eat dinner with borrowed knives and forks cooked in a borrowed microwave oven. Then they retire to the unwanted bed they were forced to buy.

The Hardmans moved from Jersey last December to take up jobs as managers in the Isle of Man's thriving tax-haven financial industry and bought a house at Glen Vine. But the strike which has paralysed the island's ferry service has locked up their furniture in a warehouse in Lancaster.

The 161 seamen employed by the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company began an indefinite strike on December 29 after proposals by the company to cut its £5 million annual wage bill by reducing wages and manning levels. The ro-ro ferry Tynwald has remained motionless in Heysham Harbour in Lancashire since.

An estimated 600 island families and individuals who chose to spend

Christmas on the mainland now bitterly regret their decision. Their cars are stranded in England. Forty mainland cars are similarly stranded in Douglas.

Mrs Ailsa Royston, who lives near Douglas and whose car is still in England, has become spokeswoman for passengers parted from their belongings, and will hold a public meeting in Douglas today to explore the possibilities of compensation from the shipping line, which she admits are slight.

Islanders are highly critical of the ferry company for giving no advance warning of the strike. Suffering among the majority of Maxmen, however, is largely confined to a restriction in the number of brands of baked beans and toilet-rolls on supermarket shelves.

Normal life has been maintained largely by the efforts of Mezeron, a small non-union shipping operator which runs two cargo vessels between Glenties, Lancashire, and Ramsey and has chartered three more to cope with demand.

Wing-Comdr Maurice Felton, the island's emergency planning officer, is negotiating with a British shipping consortium to have two more container ships with non-union crews operating between the Mersey and Douglas by next week.

"In spite of being six weeks into the strike, we have managed to get all the food and essential freight we have wanted on to the island. We can carry on indefinitely", Wing-Comdr Felton said.

The Steam Packet Company, which says it can operate its service with 86 seamen instead of the 161 it has now dismissed, has been advertising on the island for a substitute crew but was unable to say yesterday when its service might restart. For Andrew and Sally Hardman there is no relief in sight.

Elsewhere in Britain, the seamen's ferry strike brought British-flagged passenger and freight services to a standstill yesterday, except for sailings to Orkney and Shetland and the Isle of Wight.

The Dover harbour authorities warned drivers to avoid the port if possible or face delays of up to 24 hours. And Ulster farmers and businessmen sent warnings to the National Union of Seamen saying their action would have "far-reaching consequences" for the Province.

In the High Court, lawyers for several ferry companies prepared the ground to take the NUS and its leaders before a judge for contempt or to claim damages for loss of business during the strike period. This morning, Mr Justice Kennedy, who has granted injunctions to seven ferry companies ordering the NUS to stop its action, will consider an application by the companies for leave to issue a writ of sequestration.

The union's lawyers also appeared before him yesterday asking for the original injunctions to be lifted.

Today he will further consider their application. Whatever happens, the NUS said yesterday it will fight the ferry companies' legal actions.

Nuclear power station test off

By Robert Matthews Technology Correspondent

The controversial test of Trawsfynydd nuclear reactor in North Wales has been postponed because of public concern over its safety.

Yesterday, the Central Electricity Generating Board said that it had decided to put off the safety test, which involved switching off the reactor's cooling system after a routine shutdown, because it was "very concerned at the strength of local opposition which has arisen because of the way the test and safety issues had been misrepresented".

The proposed test had provoked protests from the governments of Ireland and the Isle of Man, and threats of legal action to prevent what some dubbed a "potential Welsh Chernobyl".

Yesterday, however, the board said it remained convinced that the proposed test was safe. The Government's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, which was investigating the board's safety claims, was not involved in the postponement decision.

The board admitted yesterday: "Perhaps we didn't do our homework properly with the locals". The postponement would enable the board to make "a full presentation of what is proposed well in advance of the test", which might be conducted on a nuclear reactor at another site.

"We have received many representations from local people and we are impressed with the sincerity of their concern. We have, therefore, decided to take note of them and postpone the test."

MPs campaigning to stop the test, although welcoming the decision, want the board to cancel the test completely.

Dr Dafydd Thomas, Welsh Nationalist MP for Merioneth, said: "I am pleased the board has responded to public opinion".

Jasmine dismissal 'unfair'

A social worker involved in the Jasmine Beckford case should not have been dismissed for gross misconduct, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

The court said that although Mrs Diane Dietmann had been accused of "gross negligence" in the report of an inquiry into Jasmine's death, her behaviour did not amount to gross misconduct under the terms of her contract.

Jasmine was killed by her stepfather after Mrs Dietmann had allegedly failed to notice signs of child abuse.

The court also ruled that Mrs Dietmann can keep the £2,708 damages awarded by the High Court.

The London borough of Brent, which dismissed her in December 1985, must also pay the costs of the appeal and was refused leave to appeal.

Lord Justice Balcombe, sitting with Lord Justice May and Lord Justice Stocker, said that on the proper construction of her contract, Brent was not entitled to summarily dismiss her without first allowing her a hearing under the disciplinary procedure.

He said there was no suggestion in the report that Mrs Dietmann, of Tudor Well Close, Stanmore, north-west London, had been guilty of any deliberate wrongdoing.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC, counsel for Brent, said the ruling would affect thousands of employees.

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Moore tries to end nurses' national pay bargaining

By Jill Sherman Social Services Correspondent

The Government wants to break up national pay bargaining for nurses and impose instead a system of regional pay variation and discretionary payments. Mr John Moore, the Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday.

Mr Moore said that the Government's evidence to the nurses' pay review body, which was leaked in the *Nursing Times*, had been circulated to the health service unions.

The evidence, which had been prepared by Department of Health officials, says that there should be no large across-the-board pay increases for nurses. Regional pay variation would be introduced to help recruitment and retention problems through supplements for staff in London and the South-east.

That could mean increases over and above basic pay of 9 to 12 per cent in those areas. Health authorities would also be able to pay a discretionary payment if they found it difficult to recruit staff from certain specialties such as intensive care, mental handicap and theatre nursing.

The department report proposes supplements worth two to three increments on pay grades in inner London and one to two points for outer London. One increment is worth 3 to 4 per cent, it says.

The new salaries would be based on pay grades agreed as part of the new clinical grading structure, topped up by a "modest" cost of living increase.

The department says that it envisages that junior enrolled nurses would be on grade C, earning a basic minimum of £6,250. Enrolled nurses with post-basic training or responsibility for staff nurses should get a minimum pay of £7,040, while midwives and registered



Mr Moore speaking yesterday to the National Association of Health Authorities.

general nurses with greater training or skills would get a minimum of £7,829.

All those grades would earn an additional cost of living increase.

The nurses and midwives pay review body was set up in 1983 to advise the Prime Minister on remuneration of nursing staff, midwives and health visitors. The body also has a remit to advise on pay levels for professions allied to medicine such as radiographers and physiotherapists.

Moore harassed by demonstrator

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A demonstrator carrying a green placard reading "NHS - RIP" rushed up to Mr John Moore, the Secretary of State for Social Services, yesterday at a conference in London, suggesting that people should spend money on dental checks rather than alcohol.

"Why don't you tell the truth - you are destroying the health service", Mr John Moore, a Labour councillor on North Dorset health authority, shouted.

Mr Moore, who had been jostled by nurses outside the hall, refused to be unsettled. "We must approach the issue seriously, not in an angry and emotive way", he said.

After his speech, Mr Moore gave the first indication that the Cabinet is unlikely to opt for a compulsory private health insurance scheme.

Staff shortage put 'patients at risk'

By Mark Ellis

A woman infected with a virulent drug-resistant germ was transferred from isolation to a ward with more than 20 patients on it because of a shortage of nurses.

The incident, at The London Hospital in Whitechapel, east London, was cited by nurses on strike as an example of the poor state of the National Health Service.

The woman, who died, had undergone a heart by-pass operation. At the hospital yesterday nurses said: "The hospital authorities tried to hush this up but this patient might have lived and others would not have been put at risk if there were enough nurses. People die in casualty waiting for beds to be found."

The hospital confirmed that the patient had been transferred "to enable staff to go off" for Christmas Bank holidays.

Steps were taken to avoid contact with other patients.

The woman was infected with methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus bacteria (MRSA). The cardiac ward to which she was transferred was closed down and patients moved to the hospital's other cardiac ward.

The hospital said the woman died from her illness and not MRSA.

Admissions to the hospital were stopped on Sunday in preparation for yesterday's strike, which closed four general and medical wards.

Outside, nurses and other staff belonging to the Confederation of Health Service Employees and the National Union of Public Employees were given support by off-duty doctors and members of the Royal College of Nursing.

Boghammer boats have become a potent threat to all shipping in the Gulf because of their speed. Capable of travelling at up to 50 knots, the boats come out from the many Iranian islands dotted in the Gulf and attack tankers from the stern. The Iranian Revolutionary Guards are armed with rocket-propelled grenades, Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and machine guns.

The Royal Marines have bought one of the Boghammer fast patrol boats used by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards in the Gulf tanker war to develop adequate counter measures against them.

The boat, purchased from the Boghammer company in Sweden, is being tested by Royal Marines at Poole in Dorset.

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Funding of high-tech projects is shared

By Robert Matthews Technology Correspondent

The development of revolutionary electronic devices based on biochemicals is one of five areas to receive government backing under a £420 million joint scheme launched yesterday.

Called Link, the research and development scheme aims to bring together industry and universities to work on the technology of the 1990s.

The Government will pay up to half the cost of the research programmes, with the rest coming from industry.

The launch of Link, more than a year after its announcement by the Prime Minister, comes after a re-think by the Treasury on the rules companies must follow to claim support for their part of the collaboration.

As highlighted by *The Times* last December, Link was being held up because of the Treasury's insistence on using a flat-rate figure for the level of overheads for which companies could claim. Allowances will instead be calculated on the basis of audited accounts presented by companies.

Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said yesterday that no new money was being provided by the Government for Link. The scheme is seen as part of the DTI's strategy of channeling existing money into areas of research that would not otherwise attract interest from industry.

Molecular electronics, a technology in which Britain is a world leader, will receive £10 million.

The DTI is also providing up to £12 million over the next five years to put Britain at the forefront of conventional electronic technology. Genetic engineering, including genetic fingerprinting, will get up to £2.3 million over the next four years.

The other two programmes cover industrial measurement systems, up to £11 million, and nanotechnology, the development of manufacturing techniques capable of operating to an accuracy of one millionth of a millimetre.

A secret Whitehall review will shortly recommend the biggest cuts made in agricultural research and development, threatening more than 3,700 jobs, the Institution of Professional Civil Servants said yesterday.

It is expected to suggest that up to 70 per cent of all research should be switched from government to industry. Research which brings direct commercial benefits will either be funded by industry or ended.

The institution also says the Ministry of Agriculture wants farmers to bear the full cost of its advisory service, instead of the 20 per cent target introduced last year.

It says the policy changes, jeopardising research worth £75 million, would be put into effect within two years.

Damages awards

Judge defends Opren offer

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Damages awards estimated at £2,000 offered to each of the 1,300 alleged victims of the anti-arthritis drug Opren were defended by a High Court judge yesterday.

Mr Justice Hirst said the awards, by the American drug manufacturers Eli Lilly, were based on legally established levels and the courts had no alternative but to apply them.

"There is nothing wrong with critics questioning or condemning these levels, so long as they recognize only Parliament can change them", he said. The parties in the proceedings would inevitably negotiate settlements on the basis of them, and there was no certainty, if the offer was rejected, that plaintiffs would do better.

There are still 72 who have not decided. The judge agreed to a "final" extension from tomorrow to February 12 of the deadline for claimants to accept their offer or withdraw

from the action. The judge agreed March 25 as the deadline for claimants to lodge documents for arbitration. After yesterday's hearing, Miss Kathleen Grassham, chairman of the Opren Action Committee, thanked the *Daily Mail* whose "commitment to justice made these hearings possible".

New ways to finance drugs and disaster cases involving groups of people such as those in the Opren case will be urged by the Law Society today at the report stage of the Legal Aid Bill.

It has tabled an amendment giving claimants automatic entitlement to legal aid if the High Court judge handling the case approved.

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TIMESHARE WARNING #4

Make certain you have enough time to consult your own advisers.

PREVIOUS WARNINGS

1. Make certain that before you pay any deposit you have at least 14 days with no penalty (preferably 21 days) to examine your purchase.

2. Any monies paid to purchase a timeshare should only be paid to a Solicitor's Clients' Account to protect your funds.

3. Do not allow a salesman to pressurise you to sign anything. Insist on taking papers home with you to consider.

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Tube inspector was close to tackling King's Cross blaze

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

A London Underground inspector got within about two feet of the blaze at King's Cross Station with a fire extinguisher, but was driven back by smoke before he could use it.

Mr Christopher Hayes yesterday told the inquiry into the disaster, which killed 31 people on November 18, he had forgotten about the water fog fire extinguishing system which was fitted on the Piccadilly line escalator where the fire broke out.

Mr Hayes, aged 39, of South Harrow, north-west London, is a relief station inspector. He was the first witness to give evidence. Asked by Mr Roger Henderson QC, counsel to the inquiry, whether he knew where the fire extinguishing facilities were at King's Cross, Mr Hayes said: "I had a general idea."

He knew there was a fire hydrant in the main ticket hall but had not realized it had been enclosed behind a locked builders' hoarding.

Mr Hayes said he did not know the precise location of the manifolds and valves for controlling the water fog fire-fighting system.

At 7.34pm on November 18 he was called to the bottom of the Piccadilly line escalators. Passengers were pointing to smoke coming from the number four escalator, which was not working and taped off.

"I did see some smoke coming out, not a lot, but some smoke," he said. He ran up another escalator and told policemen he was going to check out the smoke.

He went straight into the

upper machine room under the Piccadilly line escalators. He went down some stairs and there was smoke, but at that stage "not enough to make me cough and splutter". He stood on a machine and looked down the underside of the escalator. "I saw a small fire about one foot across."

He went to get a fire extinguisher. "I grabbed it and returned to the scene," he said. The threads of the escalator were immediately above his head. He was looking through a gap in a wall through to the number four escalator. "I tried to get through the gap. I was just getting close enough to use it but smoke and fumes were too bad."

Asked if it was smoke or heat that prevented him using the fire extinguisher he said: "It was the smoke. I could not concentrate enough to use it."

"I returned to the ticket office and told a police officer I had not been able to get to the fire."

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He and Mr David Dhanper-saud, station inspector on the Metropolitan and Circle line platforms, went to switch off the electricity supply to the escalators.

At the inquiry, Mr Henderson asked Mr Hayes: "Did it occur to you to use the water fog system?" Mr Hayes said: "Not at this particular stage, I had forgotten about it."

Having switched off the current to the escalators, the two men were again in the machine room. Mr Henderson asked how long it was before "something much more frightening happened".

Mr Hayes said: "Just a second. There was a sort of whoosh over our heads just as we were about to come out."

There were no flames in the machine room, though there were some at the door, preventing them getting out.

Mr Hayes said he and Mr Dhanper-saud ran downstairs and emerged at the bottom of the Victoria line escalator, where firemen and policemen were getting people out of the Piccadilly line concourse.

They were putting passengers on northbound trains on the Victoria line.

Asked if he saw any panic, Mr Hayes said: "Not a lot of panic, no. We had trouble moving some passengers who wanted to stay and look."

Mr Hayes was asked by Mr Charles Pugh, representing the families of the victims: "Why didn't you pick up an extinguisher on your way to the fire in the first place?"

He replied: "I was just rushing there to see where the fire was."

Arsenal fans arrested



PC Glenn Tilney holds a rifle, one of many weapons seized yesterday when 18 Arsenal football supporters were arrested. Ninety officers took part in dawn raids on 26 homes across north London and the Home Counties.

Scotland Yard officers working with British Transport police co-ordinated raids which extended to Reading, Margate and Milton Keynes. They seized rifles, flick knives, a

crossbow, coshes and scrapbooks of soccer violence. The arrests were the culmination of police undercover and intelligence operations aimed at a hard core of violent supporters on the terraces.

The investigation was begun after clashes at an FA cup match between Arsenal and Millwall last month in which eight policemen were injured.

Church split on call for entry fee

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

The Church is divided over an MP's call to charge tourists a £1 entrance fee to cathedrals.

The Government's official reply to the report of the Commons select committee on the environment was published yesterday. Attached was a letter from the conference of Deans and Provosts rejecting charges. Tagged on to that was another from the Dean and Chapter of Ely Cathedral dissenting "most seriously" from the Deans and Provosts.

The Deans and Provosts, headed by the Very Rev Peter Baiz, Dean of Durham, said charges would erode the religious character of cathedrals.

It was neither desirable nor possible to distinguish between tourists and worshippers, and that it was in any case "the pastoral task of a cathedral to turn tourists into visitors, visitors into guests, guests into pilgrims, and pilgrims into worshippers".

The Dean of Ely Cathedral, the Very Rev William Patterson, and the Bishop of Huntingdon, Dr Gordon Roe, felt obliged to register a "dissenting opinion". Ely had charged for the past two years without diminishing the Cathedral as a House of God.

The Deans and Provosts "warmly concur" with another committee recommendation that they should be eligible for grants from public funds. They also acknowledge the need to raise more regular revenue themselves through such means as trusts, endowment funds and "the sponsorship of choirboys".

The Government said the entrance fee recommendation was a matter for the Church.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Third time lucky for winners

Mrs Barbara French, one of yesterday's four winners to share the daily £4,000 Portfolio prize, may use her winnings to take her first holiday for four years.

"My husband and I have each been so busy setting up our own small businesses that we just have not had the time to get away," Mrs French, who lives near Kirby Lonsdale, Cumbria, said. She runs a bookshop there and her husband Stuart has a small gallery.

"This win is certainly an incentive to go for the Accumulator prize," she said. "This was only my third attempt at Portfolio."

Another winner, Mrs Susan Morris, from Torquay, said that she would use her winnings to buy a new three-piece suite. "My two-year-old son has split everything he can on the present one," she said.

Mrs Morris, too, had been playing Portfolio for only three days since she received her new card with Accumulator.

A third winner was Mr R. Oughton of Tring, Hertfordshire.

Mr Gerard Duxelle, of Ramsgate, Kent, also won £1,000 in yesterday's Portfolio Gold competition.

Arms found

Irish police have uncovered another terrorist arms dump on a beach near Bunclara, Co Donegal. The find included timing devices, detonators, batteries, wiring and a bomb-making manual. The equipment had been hidden in a buried rucksack.

Alert at three Tube stations

By David Sapsted

The risk of another King's Cross-style disaster on the London Underground was "still a very real possibility" an MP said last night after fire alarms were given at three stations.

Mr Frank Dobson, the shadow leader of the Commons, whose Holborn and St Pancras constituency includes King's Cross, called for an immediate safety check throughout the London Underground system.

"Despite the tragedy at King's Cross, these incidents show that the potential for disaster on the Underground is still there. It seems incredible to me that a thorough

and effective review of all safety procedures and systems on the Underground has not been undertaken by London Regional Transport," he said.

Yesterday's incidents involved a fire in the winding machinery of an escalator at Warren Street station; a blaze in a tunnel on the Northern line about 150 yards from Clapham Common station, which required passenger evacuation; and an electrical fault in a light in the staff canteen at Holborn station.

As the inquiry into the 31 deaths at King's Cross in November completed its third day of hearings yesterday, Mr Dobson said he was "staggered" that fires should

still be breaking out on the Underground.

However, London Regional Transport denied the system was unsafe.

At least 150 commuters were evacuated from Clapham Common station when smoke filled the southbound platform yesterday morning. A passenger first reported smelling burning paper at about 7.15 am, but a search by Underground staff failed to find anything amiss until smoke started entering the station more than a hour later.

Firemen wearing breathing apparatus entered the tunnel and found rubbish burning beside the track. Services were resumed after 50 minutes.

Store chain 'paid man to spy on rivals'

A security consultant accused of ordering the illegal bugging of a director's home telephone yesterday told a court he was paid to spy on former employees of Dixons, the high street electrical store chain.

Michael Anderson, aged 43, told Luton Crown Court that he was hired by Dixons as they tried to take over Woolworths in 1986. But he said he never broke the law.

Mr Anderson, a former policeman, said he prepared information about the Woolworths managing director, Mr Nigel Whitaker, and his chief executive, Mr Geoffrey Mulhally.

After Woolworths suc-

ceeded in fighting off the takeover, Mr Anderson said he was told that five staff had left Dixons to join the Woolworths subsidiary, Comet.

In the first prosecution over alleged phone bugging, Mr Anderson of Eton, near Stratford-on-Avon, denies conspiracy to intercept communications.

Two of his employees, Terry Rowe, aged 42, and Terence Franklin Rowe, aged 42, have admitted bugging the home telephone of a Comet director and former Dixons employee, Mr Peter Hopper, of Aspley Heath, Bedfordshire. Mr Anderson denies authorizing the bugging.

A fugitive thinks of home

By David Sapsted

Ronald Biggs, Great Train Robber, fugitive from justice and unlikely folk hero, suspects he may one day see Britain again. But not if he has his way, he says in an interview which makes front page news in the *Wall Street Journal*.

With 28 years of a 30-year sentence still awaiting him in the UK, Biggs is not banking for a return to his old south London hamlet, even if he misses Saturday nights out at the local. "I became a crook because I needed the money. If I had not, I could be freezing my butt as a chippy," he says.

Biggs, who has thwarted Scotland Yard's best efforts to

bring him back, as well as two kidnap attempts by former servicemen from Britain, is today making ends meet in Rio de Janeiro with shares in two nightclubs and with the help of his son, a pop star.

A film, *Prisoner of Rio*, has just been completed about the attempts to kidnap him.

It was a quarter-century ago this August when Biggs and 13 others pulled off the spectacular robbery that netted them £2.6 million (worth about £18 million at today's prices).

As he quaffs a traditional cuppa in his apartment high above Rio's coastline, Biggs confesses to some regrets. He is sorry that the train engineer,

hit over the head by another gang member and never able to work again, was injured.

Biggs, now aged 56, may have a "Tour London's Country by Green Coach" poster hanging in his kitchen, but he says he is not anxious to return.

Mr Jack Slipper, the former police chief superintendent who pursued Biggs around the world, has his own ideas. "I have a feeling that once the son gets of age, Biggs will put himself in the hands of the British public. He would give anything to get back to London. He likes fish and chips, jellied eels and all that sort of thing, you know."

Smoother path to stardom

By Andrew Billen

Mrs Worthington will soon find it easier to put her daughter on the stage.

The Theatre Managers' Association, representing provincial playhouses, has reached an agreement with the actors' union Equity to remove some of the notorious restrictions on newcomers wishing to enter the profession.

In the past, stage school graduates have found the path to stardom blocked because to get a job, they needed an Equity card, and to get an Equity card, they needed a job.

Now a work register is to be established. Graduates of courses accredited by the National Council for Drama Training who register will be given an Equity card if they are offered a part.

Mr Peter Plowright, general secretary of Equity, said yesterday: "We greatly welcome any changes that make the entry system into our over-crowded profession more rational and more fair."

From April, subsidized theatres will be able to take on as many newcomers as they want from the register, and one from outside it.

Producers of commercial seasons will be able to draw on a pool of 250 Equity cards. West End productions are not included in the reform.

Road safety on two wheels New laws for motor cyclists

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Motor cyclists will not be allowed on the road without a full day's off-road training, Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Transport, announced yesterday.

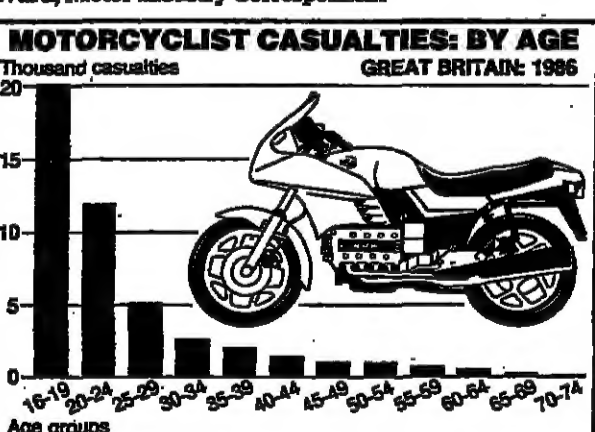
The minister revealed a series of changes to legislation and training for Britain's million motor cyclists in an attempt to reduce accidents which claimed 762 lives and 52,000 casualties in 1986.

Motor cyclists are 40 times more likely to be killed or seriously injured than car drivers and account for nearly a quarter of all road casualties in spite of covering only 2 per cent of the total traffic mileage.

"Many of the accidents are due to inexperience or exuberance on the part of the rider," Mr Bottomley emphasized. More than 40 per cent of the accidents involve riders between the ages of 16 and 19 and two out of five are hurt during their first three years on a motor cycle.

Mr Bottomley said yesterday that a provisional motor cycle licence will be issued only after the one-day training course has been completed. Some dealers have already accepted the wisdom of that measure and deliver machines for new riders only to training schools.

The test will be made tougher and brought into line with the car test by putting



examiners on the road with the learner.

The Transport Act, 1981 had failed to improve training the minister admitted yesterday. The proportion of riders attending formal training before the test had improved from 10 to 30 per cent, but accident figures had not reduced.

Additional measures announced yesterday include: prohibiting learner riders from carrying pillion passengers (one in 10 casualties is a pillion rider); a new licence category for motor cycles over 400cc which can be ridden only by motor cyclists with at least two years' experience; and car drivers with a full licence will no longer be entitled automatically to a provisional licence.

If motor cycle casualty figures do not fall, Mr Bottomley

will consider a further reduction in the two-year period a rider is allowed to hold a provisional licence before having to take a test and of the minimum age for riding of 16.

The decision to restrict learners to 125cc bikes had already prevented 2,000 serious casualties, he said.

The Motorcycle Association welcomed the Government's initiative and said the industry had called three years ago for compulsory training.

Manufacturers believe that legislation will detract from the macho image of motor cycling and further reduce sales which fell below 100,000 in 1987. They will meet this month to discuss declining sales. Mr Bob MacMillan, head of Honda's UK motor cycle division said the cost of protective fairings would be prohibitive.

Turner sale tipped to set record price

Phillips the auctioneers continued their campaign upmarket yesterday by announcing they are to sell a Turner water-colour on April 18.

With an estimate of up to half a million pounds, it may well achieve a world record price for an English water-colour.

From Turner's Venetian series, the painting, probably dating from 1840, shows a shimmering view of the Grand Canal with the Santa Maria della Salute church in the foreground and the waterway vanishing into a haze of yellow.

It was "Impressionist" water-colours such as this which

were to influence later artists including Monet and Pissarro. The painting has a strong provenance, coming from the family of Thomas Griffith, Turner's agent, to whom the artist presented a group of water-colours on the subject of Venice. It has been on loan to the British Museum since 1972.

The sale is something of a coup for Andrew Clayton-Payne, Phillips's head of water-colours.

Phillips is to take the painting on a tour of New York, Tokyo and Zurich and expects interest from the Japanese — who have become keen on Turner after a recent exhibition on the artist.

There are few fears of an export stop, Mr Clayton-Payne said.

"There are 19,000 drawings and water-colours in the Turner bequest, so they would find it rather hard to justify such a thing."

The record for an English water-colour is £367,000 for another painting by Turner — "Venice: A storm approaching San Giorgio and the Dogana" — which sold at Sotheby's New York in November 1986.

Meanwhile, gratifying results were coming in from part three of Christie's mammoth sale of the Estelle Doheny Collection in California. Estimated at \$1.4 million, the final figure for the 1,000 lots was \$2.5 million.

Top lot was an eight-page fragment from a Gutenberg Bible containing the Epistle of St Paul to the Romans. It sold for \$100,000 over estimate at \$187,000.

Look who's looking into New Scientist

February 3 1988

PARLIAMENT

Crown Suppliers to be sold 'at early opportunity'

The Government is to sell Crown Suppliers, which supplies goods to Government departments.

Mr Christopher Chope, Under Secretary of State, Environment, announced the decision to the Commons in a statement.

He said that the Government would seek advice from a financial institution on the best method of selling.

The businesses available for sale will include the provision of furniture, furnishings and other equipment on an unlet basis for the public sector, and the transport hire business.

He would pay attention, in evaluating offers, "to proposals for the involvement of the staff in the success of the enterprise". Some activities would have to remain in the public sector, for security or other reasons.

Mr Chope said that the Crown Suppliers was a self-financing business within the Department of the Environment, selling furniture and other equipment and services to the public sector. It had operated as a government trading fund since 1976 and under the title of the Crown Suppliers since 1984.

"As direct suppliers to government departments, the Crown Suppliers have achieved considerable success in the design and procurement of their own-brand furniture, the procurement and supply of a wide range of equipment and the provision of fuel and transport."

"I have, however, considered the role and status of the Crown Suppliers in the light of the unifying of departments from the compulsory use of purchasing agencies."

He had had two recent reports by consultants and had discussed a summary with staff representatives.

"It is clear that the Crown Suppliers must reduce overheads substantially to reflect new working practices and purchasing policies in government departments."

"Many of the activities of the Crown Suppliers are, however, of a commercial nature and there is little doubt that they could be carried out more efficiently in the private sector."

"The question therefore is whether the Crown Suppliers should be given full freedom to compete in both public and private sectors, or whether they should be transferred to the private sector."

"I am convinced that privatization provides the brightest future for the Crown Suppliers as well as a continued source of competitive supplies for the public sector. It will also allow the Crown Suppliers to have access to a wider market."

"The private sector should be invited to bid for those of the Crown Suppliers' businesses which can be undertaken on a normal commercial basis. Some activities will have to remain in the public sector, for security or other reasons."

He would bring forward legislation to effect the transfer at an early opportunity.

ENVIRONMENT

Mr Roland Boyes, an Opposition spokesman on the environment, described the statement as a scandal which reflected the narrow political dogma of the Government at its worst.

It would affect the jobs of 5,486 people and create bankruptcies and redundancies among many small firms throughout the United Kingdom, many in areas of high unemployment.

The Crown Suppliers existed to supply government and public sectors with the most economic furniture, fuel and transport and in that it had achieved a consistently high standard of excellence.

Taxpayers would lose the most as a result of the privatization.

Mr Chope said that was a typically negative response by the Opposition. He was surprised.



Mr Chope: Some activities to remain in public sector

prised that they did not favour the expansion of opportunities which would be open to the Crown Suppliers in a wider market.

His present share of the direct furniture and furnishings market was 9 per cent. He looked forward to that being increased.

The Government wanted its departments to make their own purchasing decisions, using their own resources and to use public sector purchasing powers in the interest of British industry.

Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton, C) said the news would be warmly welcomed by many of those employed within the Crown Suppliers for the new freedom it would offer to compete in the private sector.

Far from resulting in less employment or work for small firms, it would have the reverse effect.

Sir Peter Emery (Hounslow, C) asked what percentage of the Crown Suppliers' business was with overseas and Commonwealth governments which looked to them because they were backed by the British Government. He sought an assurance that their interests would be protected.

Mr Chope said that the Crown Suppliers had very little business overseas and he hoped that they would get more as a result of privatization.

Mr Simon Hughes, Liberal spokesman on the environment, said that there were inconsistencies in Government policy.

The Government said that the Crown Suppliers did a good job, with 85 per cent of their costs better than those of the private sector and with 60 per cent of their work contracted by the private sector, and yet they had to be privatized.

The Treasury said that privatization was not in the public interest, but the Department of the Environment said that it was.

He asked Mr Chope what report he had that there was a cost benefit to the taxpayer. "Isn't the reality that there is no report saying that, but the minister's political view has prevailed?"

Mr Chope said that the announcement had the full support of the Government and the enthusiastic endorsement of the Treasury.

"The one thing that has been concerning the Treasury has been the level of the Crown Suppliers' overheads. If it stays within the public sector, action will have to be taken to deal with that. The alternative of opening up wider markets outside is preferable."

Mr Merlyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) asked what activities would remain in the public sector.

Mr Chope: Certainly those which have security implications and there may be one or two beyond that.

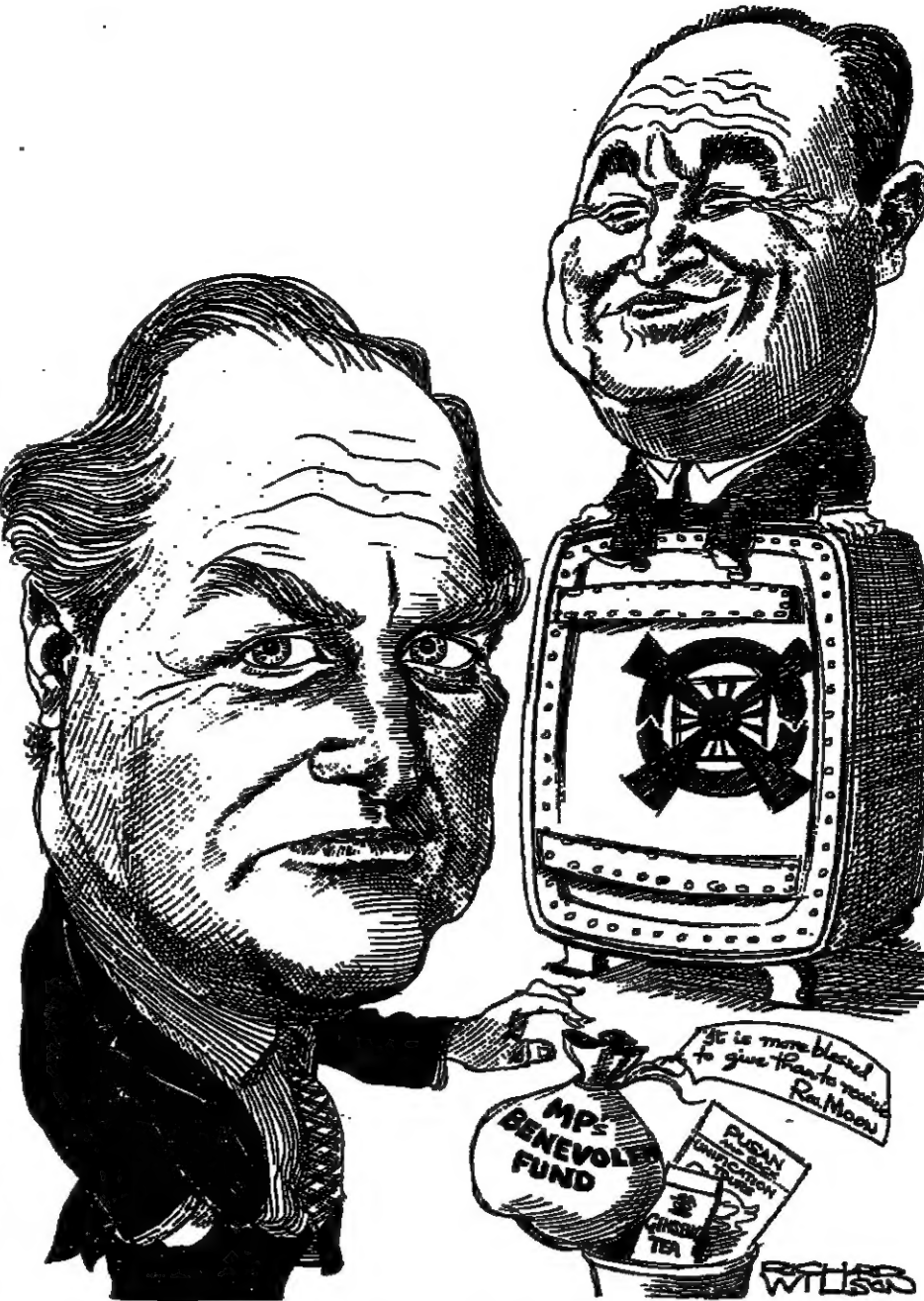
Mr Tony Blair, a Labour spokesman on trade and industry, said that the Crown Suppliers had played a critical part in changing the Government's mind about furniture foam and persuading it to introduce tougher regulations on fire safety.

"The main company behind the Government's original flawed proposals on furniture foam was Hilldown, the Crown Suppliers' parent company, and it is likely to be one of the main bidders for Crown Suppliers."

One of the aspects of the Crown Suppliers which should be left in the public sector should be its safety role to ensure that the public interest was not sacrificed to the commercial interests of the private company.

Mr Chope said that the Department of Trade and Industry covered the safety role and sought the views of organizations in both the public and private sector. This was what had happened in the case of furniture foam and if the Crown Suppliers had been in the private sector then it could have publicized its advice.

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) and Mr David Heathcoat-Amory (Wells, C) both called on the minister to privatize the Property Services Agency, but Mr Chope said that, whereas the Crown Suppliers had had a trading fund for many years, the PSA had not yet got even proper commercial accounts.



Mr Winston Churchill: Several MPs have been offered free travel to foreign places

Charitable status decision

Mayhew drops Moonies action

LAW OFFICERS

The High Court action to deprive two trusts associated with the Unification Church — the "Moonies" — of their charitable status is being dropped, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, told the Commons.

MPs reacted angrily to the decision and called for a review of the law governing charities.

Responding to a question, Sir Patrick said that proceedings had been instituted in December 1984 in connection with the trusts, the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity and the Son Myung Moon Foundation.

Prominent among the objects of each was the promotion of the principles and teachings of Sun Myung Moon, described as the founder and world leader of the Unification Church.

The trusts were in the statutory register of charities maintained by the Charity Commissioners, a register which properly comprised only trusts whose objects were truly and exclusively charitable in English law.

The proceedings had been brought on behalf of the Crown in its function as the Protector of Charity. His predecessor had appealed against the refusal of the Charity Commissioners to accede to his request to remove the association and the foundation from the charities register.

His grounds had been that they failed in particular respects to meet the requirements of English charity law. "Whatever view may be taken of its tenets, the Unification Church must as a matter of law be regarded as a religion."

In English law there is a strong presumption that any trust for the advancement of any religion, without distinction, is charitable, unless the contrary is proved by evidence admissible in court proceedings.

"Teachings which are in their very essence contrary to morality would be an example. It is for any challenger to bring forward such evidence. The burden is on him."

The evidence available to his predecessor in 1984 had properly led him, with the advice of leading counsel, to conclude that there were sufficient prospects of an appeal succeeding.

That evidence had included testimony of witnesses called for the successful defendants in a libel action against Associated Newspapers Group Ltd, tried in 1981. There had also been statements by former members

of the church offered when it became known that proceedings were being considered.

"The most careful analysis has now been made of the totality of the evidence available to me, set against the legal presumption to which I have referred."

Some of it, when tested in the light of all the material now available, has proved to be insufficiently reliable. The remainder, when seen in the overall context, is shown to be of insufficient weight to rebut the legal presumption.

"I have now been advised by leading counsel that it is most unlikely that, if the appeal proceeded to trial, I should be able to dislodge that strong legal presumption of charitable status. After the most careful consideration, I agree with the advice."

"The trial is due to start on April 12. It would last an estimated three to six months in terms of free travel to foreign places. He was one of those who had been invited, but he had declined the invitation. Other MPs should be on their guard against accepting hospitality."

Sir Patrick said he would draw to the attention of the Home Secretary the very great, wide and genuine concern felt about this particular organization and about the question of reform of charity law.

Palestinians 'would have place in talks'

The Palestinians would clearly be participants in any international conference on the Gaza Strip, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, asked what the Prime Minister had meant the day before when she said that the Government saw an international conference "as a framework within which bilateral talks could take place between King Hussein of Jordan and Israel."

The participation of Jordan was desirable and indispensable, but no conference could succeed or be acceptable without other parties such as Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and, above all, the Palestinians, whose plight and rights would be the central core of the conference.

Sir Geoffrey should repudiate what Mrs Thatcher had said because if Britain were so unclear about her policy then overcoming the obstructions of Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, and the United States would be impossible.

Sir Geoffrey said that Mr Kaufman should not draw such dramatic conclusions. The UK with the Twelve and most of the international community had come out in favour of an international conference.

It would be the right framework within which negotiations could take place. The precise participation and the precise method of setting up the conference remained for discussion, but it was clear that the Palestinians would be participants in that discussion as well as other people.

Mr Cyril Townsend (Bexleyheath, C) said that Israel's decision to build further settlements in such densely populated areas as Gaza was an affront to the refugees.

Sir Geoffrey agreed. Later, Mr George Galloway (Glasgow, Hillhead, Lab) said that what the Israelis and the Palestinians needed more than anything now was less war-war and more jaw-jaw.

But dialogue was impossible unless the local leadership of the PLO had the confidence and acceptance of the local community.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that the US was engaged in the peace process and further action might be expected from that quarter. "This is a time for serious talk and a time to draw in the Palestinian people."

Where that left the PLO was a matter for them. They had the opportunity to legitimate themselves, if they accepted UN resolutions, renounced violence and accepted Israel's right to exist.

Mr Nicholas Soames (Crawley, C) said that unacceptable inhumanities were being inflicted by Israel on the Palestinians. "Israel of all people should understand about the suffering of minorities."

Mr Mellor said that a re-evaluation on the part of Israel was needed because it was clear to him from his recent visit to the US that the shock waves of what was happening in the occupied territories were resounding around the civilized world.

Shame for Britain over S Africa

The Government's failure to oppose apartheid in South Africa was bringing shame on Britain throughout the world, Mr Bruce Galloway (The Wrekin, Lab) said during questions.

The Government's self-proclaimed policy of wanting to help to end apartheid was a fraud and a sham.

"Since the declaration of the State of Emergency, 30,000 people have been detained in South Africa," Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that the Government's repeated objection to the detentions and the way people — and particularly black people — were treated in South Africa was in no doubt as far as the South African Government was concerned.

But the point of the question was how most speedily to bring an end to apartheid. "The only way is by encouraging dialogue among all the groups in South Africa and voicing our total objection to detention without trial and the other inhuman methods the South African Government is using against its black people."

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) said that on the day when nurses were on strike for the first time in history, the House was debating the Moonies and licensing laws. The Speaker should reconsider the criteria for an emergency debate.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said he always had to have regard to the criteria laid down by standing orders and to opportunities MPs had to raise issues.

Complaints to Speaker

Labour MPs complained to the Speaker that he was not granting emergency debates on the health service, whereas similar applications had been granted by his predecessor when Labour was in office.

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Water meters promise

Consumers in areas where trials with water meters are to take place will be given full information about the purposes of the trials and will be told of their rights and obligations, Mr Colin Moynihan, Under Secretary of State, Environment, said on Tuesday night during debate on an Opposition new clause to the Public Utility Transfers and Water Charges Bill.

Mr Moynihan said that the Government was committed to the principle of water meters and that it was essential that consumers should be fully informed of the purposes of the trials and of their rights and obligations.

Dog licences

The Government's proposal to abolish the 27p dog licence was approved on Tuesday night in a Commons debate on the Local Government Bill. The proposal was supported by 95 votes to 78. Government majority, 17, and the committee stage concluded.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Pensions. Debate on the White Paper on Human Fertilisation and Embryology. Lords (3): Legal Aid Bill, report, first day.

Concern over 'Sharpeville Six'

As the British Government has made representations on behalf of the "Sharpeville Six" in South Africa, Mr Eric Forth (Mid Worcestershire, C) wondered whether the South African Government had made any representations on behalf of the "Birmingham Six" in Britain.

If there had been no such representations from South Africa, he said Britain ought to learn a lesson from that.

"It was high time to keep out of each other's internal judicial concerns. The world would then be a better place (Labour protests)."

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that there was a difference between the structure of countries such as Britain, which were wholly democratic, and the situation in countries such as South Africa, where there was not complete democracy and where a large part of the community was excluded because of the colour of their skin.

The exchanges began when Miss Joan Lester (Epsom, Lab) said it was time for more representations to be made about the "Sharpeville Six".

SOUTH AFRICA

Commonwealth Affairs, said that Mr Forth must understand that there was a difference between the structure of countries such as Britain, which were wholly democratic, and the situation in countries such as South Africa, where there was not complete democracy and where a large part of the community was excluded because of the colour of their skin.

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The court had now stated that they were convicted not because they had any direct connections with the deceased but because they were in the vicinity of the crime.

The implications of that were appalling. In view of the special relationship with President Botha, she should make representations as a matter of urgency.

Sir Geoffrey said that he had followed the case closely. An appeal for clemency had been made on behalf of the 12 EEC countries. Britain had supported a statement by the United Nations Security Council that

urged the South African Government to commute the death sentences, and Britain had since directly repeated its concern to the South African Government.

Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West, Lab) wanted Sir Geoffrey to urge Mrs Thatcher to intervene personally and directly with President Botha in order to try to save the lives of these six young people who seemed to have been wrongly convicted in the first place.

Sir Geoffrey said that the representations that Britain had made through the UN and the EEC, as well as directly to the South African Government, were most likely to have the desired effect.

It is not enough to say that disciplinary measures are being considered against RUC officers. Whatever steps are taken must be made public, and as quickly as possible in order to allay reasonable anxiety. There must be expulsions and names must be named, even if that does carry risks.

Second, the Government must provide reassurance that adequate steps are being taken to place, or will immediately be introduced, to ensure proper control within the RUC. It needs to be made clear that authorization has to be given at an appropriate level for particular kinds of operation.

Finally, there is the position of Sir John Hermon, the Chief Constable of the RUC, in the light of the allegations being made by Mr John Stalker. Paradoxically, relations between Sir John and the Commissioner of the Garda, which seemed to be a cause of some concern, have improved markedly since Mr Eamonn Doherty took over that post.

But Sir John had been expected to retire anyway before the end of the year. If he were to go early it would provide an opportunity to demonstrate that a new start was being made.

If he were to be succeeded by an English police officer, which has certainly been under consideration, that would give further assurance of an even handed approach to the two communities in Northern Ireland.

Government stays adamant on 'homosexuals' clause

By Sheila Gann, Political Staff

Lord Belstead, leader of the Lords, could be forgiven for having a sigh of relief on seeing clause 28 of the Local Government Bill clear the difficult committee stage unscathed.

The descent of three lesbians into the chamber accompanied by their screaming obscenities reinforced the conviction of the 202 peers who voted for the clause, forbidding councils from promoting homosexuality, of its rightness.

But, just as the lesbians' stunt damaged the image of the homosexual community, the Government's rigid stance over the drafting of the clause did not enhance the reputation of the House of Lords in recent sessions as a revising chamber maintaining a discreet distance from party politics.

Over the two days of debate on the clause, which came to dominate the scrutiny of the Bill, a consensus was reached among peers. They agreed that action is needed to prevent the few local councils which preach pro-homosexual policies to young people.

But many peers were left asking that, if that was the Government's only motive, why will ministers not agree to



Lord Calhoun, who was under strict instructions

tighten the clause and why fight all the amendments so fiercely? The speeches on the clause from several Conservative backbench peers confirmed the opponents' fears that it is part of a growing hostility towards homosexuals.

Lord Calhoun, recently handed the environment portfolio for the Lords, was under instructions not to give in to pressure to redraft the clause or write in exemptions, despite his own misgivings.

He agreed to change the odd word, but gave no assurances to answer the fears of many peers about its wide drafting.

Figures indicate a rowdier House

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Evidence that the House of Commons is becoming increasingly unruly was furnished yesterday by Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House.

He disclosed that over the past eight years, 15 MPs have been suspended from the Commons, compared with none over the previous seven years.

Of these, nine belonged to the Labour Party, four to the Democratic Unionist Party and two to Plaid Cymru.

as the Prime Minister who want to keep the cameras out. They maintain that television would give further encouragement to those who call the rable-rousers and they will now be able to cite concrete evidence that their fears are well founded.

After the suspension for periods of five days of three Labour MPs — Mr Ian Dwyer, Mr John Hughes and Mr Ken Livingstone — and the Welsh nationalist Mr Dafydd Wigley, the present session is on course to break the record set in 1981-82 when four MPs were barred.

The figures were released in a written reply to Mr James



Geoffrey Smith

Officer to change his declared opinion because of adverse diplomatic, political or public reactions would be quite unacceptable. No British government could give way on that point.

Nor would it be reasonable to expect the full Stalker-Sampson report to be published. There really would be valid security objections to that.

As for the Birmingham Six, it is surprising that the Irish ministers even raised the matter once it had been referred to the Court of Appeal. This is a straight question of guilt or innocence, which must be left to the proper processes of the law.

صلى الله عليه وسلم

MP's Bill may give patients access to medical records

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Patients will be free to see medical records their doctors send to insurance companies or employers if a private member's Bill becomes law.

The Access to Medical Reports Bill, introduced by Mr Andy Kirkwood, would allow people to check the information and to see that it did not involve undue intrusion on their privacy.

They would have the right to withdraw their consent for normal medical confidentiality to be breached and to forbid the sending of the report. The Bill's second reading is due next Friday.

Applicants for jobs or for insurance policies who are asked to allow their GP to supply a medical report have little option.

Failure to do so may result in their losing a job or being refused insurance, perhaps for ever once one company has turned them down. About one in 200 applicants for life insurance are refused on medical grounds.

With the advent of Aids, questioning of GPs about individuals' lifestyles has become more intensive.

Mr Kirkwood, Liberal MP for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, said: "Medical records are frequently inaccurate and sometimes even contain information about other people which has been filed by mistake."

"One recent study for the Royal College of General Practitioners showed that errors of diagnosis had been recorded in 27 per cent of the records investigated."

Examples included an Essex woman who visited her GP on expecting her second child. The doctor's records said one of her ovaries had been removed, another error was disclosed, which had been caused by the patient's previous GP mixing up the files of two women.

The blunder was overlooked because many married women have earlier references under a maiden name. According to the records, the Essex woman had undergone a series of operations for cancer.

The doctor says that the report he would have sent to an insurance company would have "precluded" her from obtaining insurance.

Another case involved a patient whose family had telephoned emergency services with the false story that he had taken a drug overdose. Neighbours noticed the ambulance and police call-out.

Later the man had an assurance application turned down. On registering with a new doctor he was told that his medical records contained the comment: "Overdose".

He concluded that his previous doctor had heard of the

Channel 4 gives Latin roots an airing

By Philip Howard

Television est omnis divites in partes quatuor. All television is divided into three channels, and then there is Channel 4. You may mean, and you may mean, that Britain is deserting its Roman roots by abandoning the classics in Mr Baker's forward-looking, cure curriculum. But dear old Channel 4, *domus cunctarum peritiam*, is about to launch the first Romano-British sitcom in a country added by the hand of *Eastenders* and *Wogan*. *Chelmsford 123* begins on Wednesday, March 9.

Scene at *Caesarmagus*, *scilicet Chelmsford in lingua barbara Britannorum*, in *Anno Domini* 123. Enter small screen left, pursued by bare necessity, the new Governor of Britannia, *Aulus Paulinus* (Jimmy Mulville, *qui etiam verba scripsit*). He studied Latin at his comprehensive school, and went on to read the *Classical Tripos* at Cambridge. He should be so lucky under the new curriculum.

Opus aggravior optatum canitur. This is going to be pretty sensational stuff. *Aulus* has been relegated to the *amphitheatrum* of the Empire for an accidental insult he delivered to the Emperor's girl friend (*scortum*) at a banquet. *Aulus invenit gravidum*: *Aulus* discovers the common cold.

Nunc terminus Britanniae patet, atque omnes ignotum pro magnifico est. Now the depths of darkness Britain are revealed in all their cliché, and everything unknown is held to be good for the ratings.

Quando in Roma, sic quod Romani fecerunt. The opening scenes in Rome are spoken in Latin, with *cavie* English subtitles. The best thing to come



Jimmy Mulville (centre) decides he's not too keen on living among the Brits, while Robert Austin (left) and Phil Pope look on

out of Chelmsford these days is the A12. But a *radicibus Romanis* the best thing to come out of *Caesarmagus* so far has been a splendid silver and gold ceremonial armour. Archaeologists are busy digging up a large Roman hotel (*mansio ad 12, square*) in Chelmsford, 70 yards long by 30 yards wide, which was probably built during Hadrian's reorganization of his distant and difficult prov-

ince. They have just discovered three baths (*tres balneae*), a furnace for heating water (*forax*), and two other rooms. Previous digging has unearthed four other rooms.

While this does not make *Caesarmagus* as important as *Camulodunum* (Colchester), the tribal centre of the *Trinobantes*, it comes at a good time (*sub omni favore*) for the programme. There are those

who claim that *Caesarmagus* was Julius Caesar's campaign base in his invasion of 54 BC. *Quot homines tot sententiae* - *suo* quique *mos*. If you believe that, you will believe anything. *Grammatici certant ad hunc sub indice* *his est*. Television critics are going to have a meal (*convivialitas*) - nit-picking and displaying their rusty Latin over this one.

first force to take a cheerful look at our classical roots. In *Carry On Cleo* I remember the guard going *Sinister, Dexter, Sinister, Dexter... Terminus*. But it is certainly the first pop comedy with Latin and subtitles. *Naturam expellas furca, tamen usque recurret*.

You may try to cut off our natural Roman roots. But they always grow back, even in the improbable ground of the telly.

Jailed guardsman staying in Sweden

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Simon Hayward, the Life Guards officer jailed in Sweden on drugs smuggling charges, has decided not to seek repatriation to a British jail to complete his sentence.

He was prepared to change his mind if he could be home in time to support his mother, Mrs Hazel Hayward, after the death in a car crash last weekend of his younger brother, David. This has proved impossible.

The explanation for Simon Hayward's decision was given yesterday by his solicitor, Mr Christopher Murray, after conflicting reports of his intentions.

Mrs Hayward was visiting her jailed son at the weekend when David, aged 21, a history student at the University

of Aberdeen, and two friends died in a road accident.

Since 1985, the Repatriation of Prisoners Act has enabled prisoners in some countries to serve their sentences in their own countries.

Mr Murray said it appeared that the only way for Hayward to come back was under the Act.

He had opted to stay in Sweden, where prison conditions were better.

Hayward was arrested last March. He was jailed for five years on August 10 for smuggling 110 lb of hashish into Sweden from Spain, driving a car owned by his other brother, Christopher.

Under normal conditions, half of the sentence will be remitted for good behaviour.



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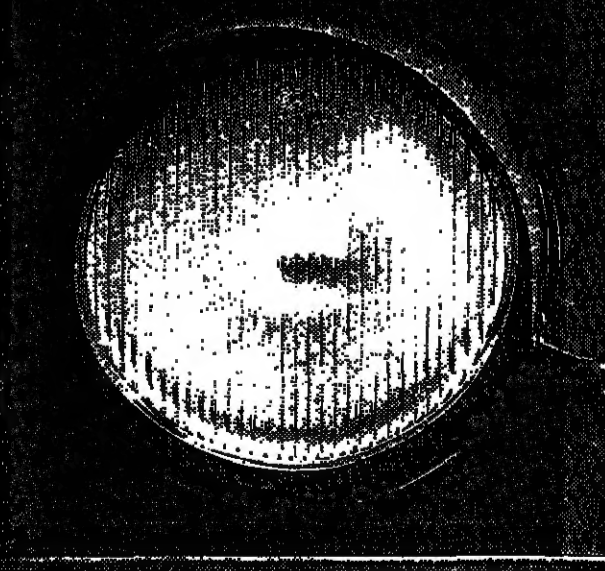
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Air Europe opens fares battle with Paris cuts

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A full assault on costly business air fares was launched yesterday by Air Europe.

The Gatwick-based airline, which hopes to become the main challenger to British Airways, announced plans to cut the standard one-way unrestricted fare to Paris to £59, compared with the officially approved level of £85 charged by British Airways and Air France.

The move is bound to meet fierce resistance. France could, in the extreme, cancel Air Europe's operating licence for challenging the recent intra-European agreement on air services within the Community.

Mr Harry Goodman, chairman of International Leisure Group, which owns Air Europe, said in Paris yesterday after the first scheduled flight: "We made a promise that we would present fares to Europe which would be cost-related, not cartel-related. Fares in Europe are an almighty rip-off."

"We think the businessman is fed up with being charged £210 for a round-trip club-class fare when he can fly with us for £120 with exactly the same facilities, except for two inches less leg-room which, on a 35-minute flight, does not matter."

Under the highly complex

formula which took years to thrash out among European transport ministers, Mr Goodman's proposed £59 fare is technically illegal until it has been officially approved by both governments.

To get around the problem in the meantime, he intends charging passengers the formal £85 for the one-way ticket — then handing back £25 on the aircraft.

He calculates that if 70 per cent of seats on his Boeing 737 jets are filled on the Paris route, he will make a profit on the twice-daily flights.

His application for permission to introduce the fare was greeted with cautious approval by the Civil Aviation Authority.

"The fare is certainly not predatory", Mr Ray Colegate, the CAA's group director for economic regulation, said. "But I would not be surprised if the French objected."

Mr Goodman is expecting just such a reaction himself and plans to be the first to use a new European arbitration procedure for settling air fare disputes which came into force from January 1.

He also intends offering similarly reduced fares on 11 scheduled routes to European destinations, all planned to start this year.

Gatwick home for new venture by Sir Adam

Sir Adam Thomson, who resigned as chairman of British Caledonian this week, is to set up in business near Gatwick airport. He will not have any direct connection with an airline.

Sir Adam, aged 61, who still has an office on the seventh floor of Caledonian House near Crawley, West Sussex, said: "It is no good sitting about moping."

"There was a tremendous amount of sadness in December when the events took place

which meant that B-Cal was no longer an independent company. But I can't dwell on that."

"I have had a number of offers which I am now considering. My main aim is to establish a core business at the airport, but at the moment I am not exactly sure what shape it will be."

Sir Adam plans to leave B-Cal later this month and to spend some time sailing his boat, the Lazy Lion, before setting up his new company.

Welcome to Newcastle's pleasuredome



Mr Steve Moorhead, president of Forrec (Europe) Ltd, unveils a ride at MetroLand in Gateshead, Newcastle. Managed and conceived by Forrec, the indoor fantasy land is Europe's first, and offers rides, games and family entertainment covering a 70,000 sq ft area (Photograph: Chris Harris).

£25bn of councils' property should be sold, auditors say

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

A £25 billion sale of council property, involving both land and buildings, is proposed in a report today from the Audit Commission, the official body charged with examining councils' books.

This unprecedented auction of publicly owned assets, outstripping the privatization of nationalized industries in its value, is necessary because councils have accumulated property far in excess of their needs.

Mr Howard Davies, the audit controller, said that taking into account the effect of the poll tax, together with demographic changes, and government legislation on schools and of contracting out, councils had 25 per cent more property than they were likely to need by the early 1990s.

Council land and buildings is estimated to be worth £100-billion. Mr Davies said yesterday: "Local government property is a hidden and undermanaged resource". Councils have buildings for which they have no use, and some do not even know how much property they own.

The criticisms of council management are among the strongest made by the five-year-old watchdog. Whitehall is not blameless, it says. Civil Servants and ministers have restricted the freedom of councils to buy and sell land by controlling their budgets.

The Audit Commission says bluntly that the register of council landholdings introduced by Mr Michael Heseltine, when environment secretary, simply has not worked. But councils are primary culprits. Land and buildings are said to be idle or underutilized and much property is deteriorating through lack of management.

"Land is frequently held in advance of need when the authority has no coherent plan for its exploitation. As a result the authority locks up land which could be exploited by others for the benefit of the community."

Tax relief urged for rented homes

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Housebuilders should be offered financial incentives to encourage them to build for the private rented sector, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors says.

In a memorandum on the Housing Bill, now at committee stage in the House of Commons, the institution also suggests either extending tax relief for house buyers to tenants in the rented sector or phasing it out.

The institution says rents must rise to market levels if significant numbers of private landlords are to be tempted back to this form of investment. "But their tenants must be cushioned from too steep a rise in rent by the wider application of housing benefit."

Assured tenancies — where rents are at market level and the tenant has a high degree of

security — would stand a greater chance of success if financial incentives were given to the housebuilder, it argues.

Among its recommendations, the institution suggests the reintroduction of capital tax allowances for new housing, built or restored for use as assured tenancies.

"Ideally, capital grants should be given in areas where viable project development would otherwise be impossible. Encouragement should also be given to local authorities to build anew, in order to replace dwindling stock."

The organization welcomes measures in the Housing Bill designed to increase the supply of private rented accommodation, but fears the legislation will have only limited impact.

'Blunder' by SAS in embassy assault

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The Special Air Service operation to free the hostages held in the Iranian embassy in London in 1980 nearly went down in history, according to a book published today.

The main assault team burst into the wrong room. It was empty, and they found they could not gain access to the rest of the embassy.

"This critical planning failure gave the terrorists time to shoot a hostage and wound several more before others of the SAS assault teams, preparing their way with flash-bangs (ston grenades), were able to reach the critical rooms", says Mr James Adams, author of *Secret Armies*, about the SAS and other special forces.

He says that on April 30, the day of the hostage-taking at the embassy, the SAS headquarters in Hereford received a telephone call from a former SAS non-commissioned officer, Mr Dusty Gray, who had left the regiment to join the Metropolitan Police as a dog handler.

He said he was outside the Iranian embassy in Princes Gate, west London.

The counter-revolutionary warfare unit from B Squadron 22 Special Air Service immediately loaded up its special Land-Rovers and drove down the M4 to London.

"The SAS has an arrangement with the police that allows for the outside lane of the motorway to be closed to all traffic so they have a clear run to the site of an emergency, but on this occasion, as they were acting (at that stage) without authority, they did not take advantage of this", Mr Adams says.

When the SAS was ordered to mount an attack, on the direct authority of the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, "it was made clear to them that they were to take no prisoners".

Mr Adams says there was some concern at these instructions and assurances were requested and given that, "provided the SAS followed the rules of engagement allowing for the use of force in self-defence, there would be no comeback from any subsequent police inquiry".

All but one of the five terrorists were killed.

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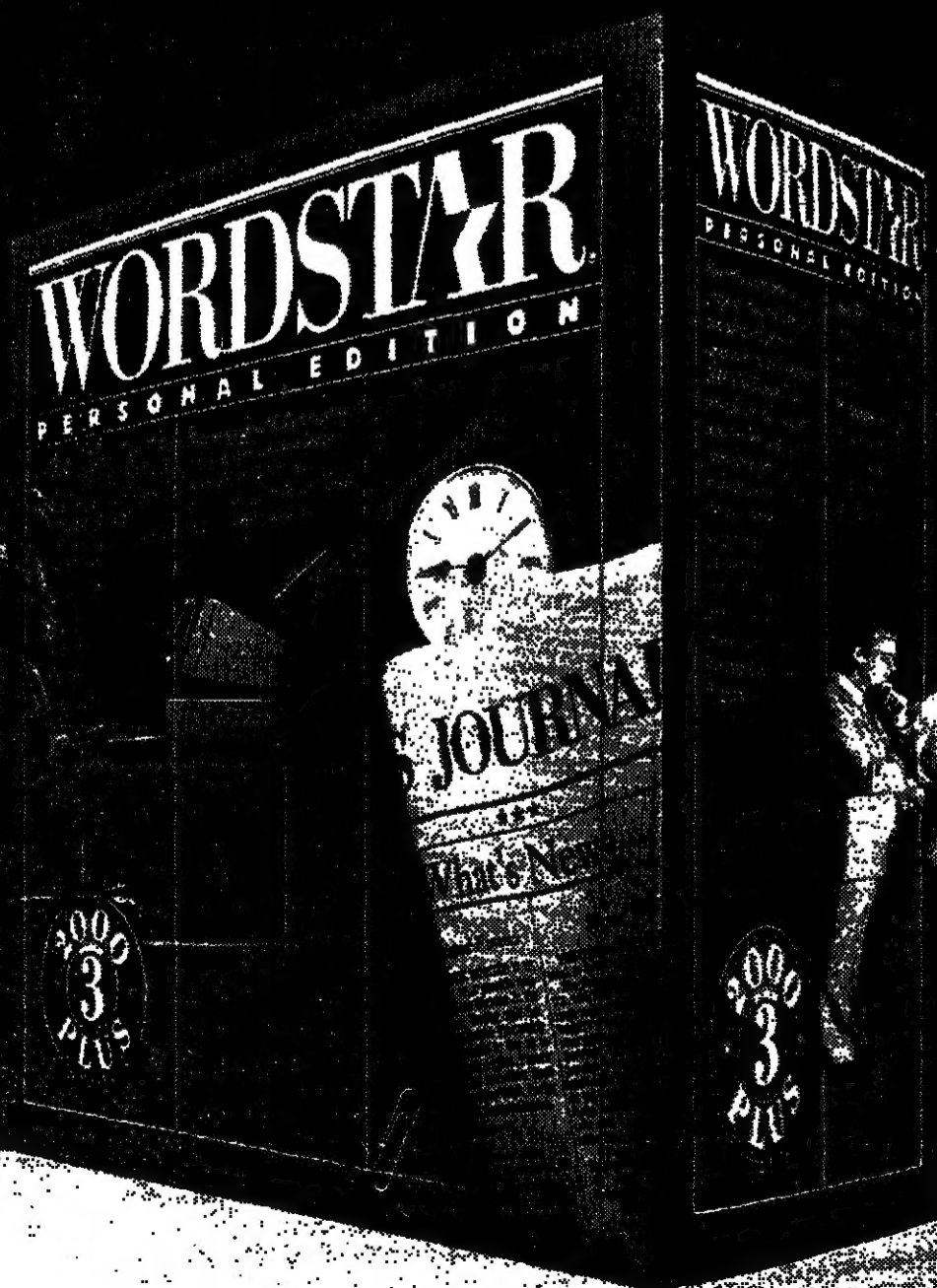
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سکتا من الامل

WORLD ROUNDUP

US court setback for surrogacy

Trenton, New Jersey (Reuters) — New Jersey's highest court struck a big blow against surrogate motherhood yesterday by ruling such contracts invalid, but it refused to return the child in the celebrated "Baby M" case to her natural mother.

The mother, Mary Beth Whitehead Gould, aged 30, won a hollow victory with the unanimous 7-0 decision by the New Jersey State Supreme Court which granted custody of "Baby M" to her natural father, William Stern, and his wife. However, Ms Whitehead Gould was granted visiting rights.

She was to have been paid \$10,000 for bearing the child for the Sterns, but she went back on the agreement after the birth, saying she could not part with the child, now aged two.

Poll bid by Atom sub accused for India

Bogotá (Reuters) — Señor Carlos Lehder Rivas, an alleged drugs overlord on trial in the United States charged with smuggling 3.3 tonnes of cocaine, has registered his candidacy for regional and city council seats in central Colombia.

He is said to be a leader of the Medellín cartel, which is believed to be responsible for up to 80 per cent of the cocaine smuggled into the United States.

If elected, Señor Lehder will have immunity from criminal charges in Colombia, but it was not clear if this would be retroactive. Formal notification of his candidacy is awaiting confirmation that he swore his interest in standing in the election before a Colombian diplomat in the US.

CDU clears the decks

Bonn — Clearing the decks before a premature state election in May, the Christian Democrat party of Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Schleswig-Holstein yesterday found their late prime minister, Herr Uwe Barschel, guilty of having used "dirty tricks" against his Social Democrat challenger in a poll last September (John England writes).

Presenting its own evaluation of an all-party parliamentary investigation of the affair, which led to Herr Barschel's resignation, the CDU said he had ordered, taken part in or tolerated "unlawful machinations".

Crocodile Telegram Princess search off

Darwin — The Prince and Princess of Wales came face to face with Australia's crocodiles yesterday on the final engagement of their bi-centennial tour. During a visit to the Darwin Crocodile Farm the Princess said: "Aren't they evil-looking?" (Our Correspondent writes).

The Prince warned her: "Be careful, they can give you a nasty nip". But she plucked up courage to pick up a 3ft specimen.

The Prince and Princess then flew on for a three-day visit to Bangkok, where they were met by Prince Vajiralongkorn and Princess Sirindhorn.

Tanker strafed twice

Manama (AP) — Iranian gunboats riddled a Norwegian chemical tanker with gunfire in the southern Gulf yesterday, a day after Iran's first reported jet strike on shipping in more than two years. Gulf-based shipping executives said that the 33,000-ton tanker Petrobulk Ruler was attacked twice — the second time while sending a distress signal. The attack was Iran's third on a neutral ship in the Gulf in five days. The latest attacks reflect Tehran's policy of ship-for-ship retaliation for Iraqi air strikes against Iran's own coastal oil shipping.

Demjanjuk's 'quiet face conceals Ivan'

From A Correspondent, Jerusalem

Mr John Demjanjuk, sitting in his grey suit between two guards, shook his head in disagreement yesterday as Mr Yona Blattman, the state prosecutor, summed up the year-long case against him.

"He was no mere cog in the wheel. He was in fact an active partner in carrying out one of the greatest acts of murder in human history," Mr Blattman told the court. "Unequivocal evidence was produced which proves that the accused is 'Ivan the Terrible' who killed hundreds of thousands of men, women and children with extreme bestiality and found refuge in a quiet backwater of the United States."

Mr Demjanjuk, Ukrainian-born, is charged with having been a guard and gas chamber operator at Treblinka in Nazi-occupied Poland. He claims that during the relevant years he was a prisoner of the Germans, before moving after the war to Cleveland, Ohio.

In summing-up, Mr Blattman repeated the three main prosecution arguments: positive identification by eight Treblinka survivors; a Nazi identity card issued to Mr Demjanjuk in 1942 at a training camp for guards; and discrepancies in the alibi he presented to explain where he was during the war.

Five survivors, after recounting the horrors of Treblinka and the heinous deeds perpetrated by "Ivan" — such as drilling a hole in a man's buttocks — identified Mr Demjanjuk as the guard. Written identification by three survivors who have since died was also submitted.

The prosecution argued that the memories of the survivors were reliable, even after 40 years, because such horrors were etched indelibly in their minds.

To support the charge that

Mr Demjanjuk was a Nazi collaborator, Mr Blattman referred to the 1942 service pass containing a photograph and a list of postings. Though Treblinka is not mentioned on the card, Sobibor, another death camp about 90 miles away, is listed.

The prosecution claims that Treblinka was Mr Demjanjuk's permanent post, where he would have been recognized and thus not have needed an ID card. Only when he was sent elsewhere would it have been necessary to record the assignment on his card. Mr Blattman compared the card to identity cards carried today by Israelis, and said that more than half did not have correct addresses.

The prosecution pinpointed what it claimed are historical discrepancies in Mr Demjanjuk's alibi, stating that he changed the places and the dates to hide his presence at Treblinka.

Mr Demjanjuk's claim that he was a prisoner of war at Chelm in Poland was ridiculed by the prosecution because it was the first time in 10 years of investigations that he had mentioned it.

"How could the accused, who claims this was the blackest period of his life, have forgotten what he did?" Mr Blattman asked. "There is no explanation. Our answer is that he was never there."

The prosecution concluded by asking the three-judge panel to find Mr Demjanjuk guilty. "It is our contention that this quiet and peaceful countenance should not be misleading, because behind it is the face of Ivan the Terrible."

The defence summing-up, which begins on Monday, is expected to last two weeks. If convicted, Mr Demjanjuk could face the death penalty.

Gorbachov ends song of Volga car men

From Christopher Walker Moscow

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov has declared open war on the most potent and wasteful symbol of the privileged Soviet bureaucracy, the ubiquitous black Volga cars which, with an official driver, form one of the most sought-after perks of any government position.

An unexpected announcement from the Soviet Council of Ministers last night stated that, under a new Kremlin regulation, the number of official cars is to be reduced by nearly half in Moscow and in the rest of the country by nearly a quarter.

Thousands of vehicles and drivers are understood to be affected.

"The decision provides for a 40 per cent cut in the number of office cars servicing the union ministries, departments, institutions and organizations as of 1 July, 1988," Tass reported. "The Council of Ministers of the Union republics are instructed to reduce the number of office cars by 20 per cent."

For most Soviet bureaucrats, the official car — sometimes with curtains cut off rear window — is the ultimate status symbol. It is frequently alleged that the costly privilege is being widely misused, and that cars are used to take

children to school and wives out shopping.

As any visitor to Moscow is quick to notice, the black official Volga — driven at high speed down the central lane theoretically reserved for the superior, bullet-proofed Zil limousines used by members of the Politburo — is one of the lasting images of the city.

Senior Western diplomats said last night that the sweeping was certain to stiffen resistance to the Gorbachov reforms among conservative bureaucrats, who fear their featherbedded lifestyle is disappearing rapidly.

The thousands of official cars which will be released by the decree are either to be sold to the public through approved second-hand stores or turned into taxis.

The diplomats said that this was a shrewd move, as the shortage of taxis and long waiting lists for new cars are two topics of frequent public complaint.

The Tass communiqué said that the ruling provided for other measures, which were unspecified, to regulate the use of official cars. It added that officials deprived of their cars would receive mileage allowances "for the use of private cars with business aims."

As well as being a status symbol, official cars are a great convenience because Moscow provides a notoriously bad service for private motorists. According to a recent estimate, there are only 100 working petrol pumps for more than 500,000 private cars, and the average wait for petrol is 30 minutes.

Yesterday's announcement came less than a week after another Council of Ministers ruling that all the hard-currency stores selling luxury goods to Soviet citizens who have worked abroad and purchased special cheques are to be closed from July 1.

EEC set to widen rift with the US over Middle East

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain and its EEC partners are to make a joint statement on the Middle East which will show that Europe and the United States are far apart on their approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The statement will be issued at a meeting of EEC foreign ministers in Bonn on Monday, but King Hussein of Jordan is to address them first.

The move is likely to widen the split which emerged on Monday when Washington vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution on the Middle East which had the backing of Britain and its European Community partners. The resolution was proposed by the non-aligned group, but Britain played an important role in trying to adapt it to meet American objections. It had the support of all the 14 other members of the Security Council.

Whitehall sources said yesterday the veto was prompted by Washington's determination to renew its own Middle East peace initiative. It felt that the UN resolution would detract from it.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, yesterday welcomed Washington's renewed interest, but officials said privately that the American approach was at odds with British and European proposals.

The foreign ministers' statement is expected to state again Europe's call for an international conference under the auspices of the five permanent members of the Security Council, as an umbrella for direct talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

It is also likely to give implicit support for the EEC's 1980 Venice Declaration, which recognized the role of the PLO.

Damascus (Reuters) — Syria has ended a two-month truce in its media relations with Iraq, accusing Baghdad of having diverted attention from the Palestinian uprising in territories occupied by Israel. Syria, the Syrian news agency, quoted a "responsible official" as saying: "While the uprising of our Arab people against the Zionist enemy is increasing... the Iraqi officials come up with a heated campaign... against Syria... as an attempt to divert Arab and world attention from what is happening."

Washington's opposition to a UN-based approach stems partly from its wish to avoid giving the PLO a role. The vetoed resolution called on Israel to stop violating the human rights of the Palestinians, and called for a settlement under UN auspices.

The PLO yesterday denounced the American veto and said it showed support for Israel's "iron fist" policy against Palestinians.

King Hussein, who is in Paris, criticized the US veto and said Washington was losing credibility in the region. "We were disturbed by the US veto, which was neither positive nor constructive, especially as it touches on Israeli moves against our families in the occupied territories," he said after meeting President Mitterrand.

"We consider the position the US has taken encourages inhuman behaviour to our brothers in the occupied lands and reflects directly on American credibility."

The King also criticized the lukewarm reception Washington gave last week to efforts by President Mubarak of Egypt to revive momentum for an international peace conference. Mr Mubarak also proposed a cooling-off period following recent violence in Gaza and the West Bank.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's Prime Minister, yesterday sent a senior aide to Paris but it was not clear whether he would contact the King.

Mr Shamir is seen by most European and many Arab diplomats as the principal obstacle to an international peace conference.

Settlers flout law to curb violence by Palestinians

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israeli settlers in the occupied territories are increasingly taking the law into their own hands in dealing with Palestinian demonstrators.

This militant response follows a petrol bombing in the West Bank town of el-Bireh on Sunday evening in which an accountant from Beit El settlement was nearly killed. On Tuesday night settlers stoned a house near the place where the petrol bomb was thrown.

Palestinian sources said yesterday that settlers were involved in a series of incidents in the course of which at least seven demonstrators had been slightly injured in the legs by shots after troops moved in.

Despite a continuing curfew in a large area round Nablus, unrest continued to be widespread in the West Bank. Security forces decided to close all 800 Arab schools there until further notice because of 13 conservative, centrist and left-wing parties to vote "No" to the military Government's sole presidential candidate in a plebiscite later this year.

It is believed widely that the military junta will name President Pinochet as its candidate to govern Chile until 1997. He has ruled the country since the 1973 military coup.

Chile's Communist Party and the left-wing Revolutionary Movement did not join the call, because they are campaigning for a boycott of the referendum.

Representatives of the 13 parties declared on Tuesday: "We're convinced we'll be able to counteract the overwhelming publicity and official Government pressure."

The reference was to President Pinochet's skillfully designed referendum campaign: only he knows the actual date of the plebiscite.

The opposition has hitherto been divided between those who demand free elections, those who want people to vote "No" to General Pinochet and

those who want to boycott the plebiscite.

But on Monday the opposition parties combined and redoubled their efforts to achieve a united front against General Pinochet's plans to retain power indefinitely. Leaders of the Christian Democratic Party and the Nizkor branch of the Socialist Party opened the "house for free elections", a centre for organizing the anti-Pinochet campaign.

Spokesmen for the Almeyda section, the largest faction of Chile's divided Socialist Party, also called for the formation of a united command to lead a campaign for a "No" vote.

Chile's second largest opposition coalition, the United Left, proposed holding an immediate public meeting of the opposition to agree upon one common position.

Senator Hugo Rivas, director of the Diagon opinion research firm, said: "There is a lot of confusion. The Constitution speaks of a plebiscite, but the opposition wants free elections. People say: 'What are we going to vote on? What's the point of talking

about free elections if there is just a plebiscite?'"

According to the Constitution, if General Pinochet wins the vote, he will rule until 1997. Even if he loses he will rule for at least another year.

Fewer than half of the eight million eligible voters have registered to vote. Polls generally show that only between 20 and 30 per cent support General Pinochet.

But if the vote were tomorrow, he would probably win by a narrow margin, according to the Contemporary Studies Centre.

The percentage difference reflects the success of mandatory registration for the armed forces, the civil service and their families, and the voluntary support from the regime's wealthy backers.

But it also reflects the opposition's inability to win over the 70 per cent of anti-Pinochet voters.

While the opposition debates its strategy, General Pinochet has been hard at work campaigning. Extensive television advertising is only the tip of the iceberg.

From billboards throughout Santiago a beautiful girl gazes

Exiled for seeking change



Herr Stephan Krawczyk, the East Berlin singer and songwriter, and his wife, Fran Freya Klier, a theatre producer, arriving at Bielefeld in West Germany yesterday to tell how he and his family had been forced by the authorities to leave East Berlin. Herr Krawczyk and his wife were sentenced, with several other East Germans, to six months' imprisonment for "unlawful assembly and treasonous contacts with the West" (Richard Bassett writes from East Berlin). They had taken part in an unauthorized demonstration coinciding with an official parade in honour of the German communists Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht. In a surprise about-turn on Tuesday the East German authorities said that all those arrested would be released by the end of this week. But Herr Krawczyk said: "We did not leave of our own free will; it is impossible to

talk of freedom of choice in a prison, and we demand that we be allowed to return to our country." The songwriter, who was also accompanied by his 12-year-old daughter, Nadja, said that he had been given the alternative of 12 years' imprisonment by the East Germans. A priest, Father Rainer Eppelmann, expressed the views of many in East Berlin when he said: "These are not dissidents or members of any political opposition. They are people who think differently, but who do not wish to bring down the Government. They merely want to remain in their country and contribute to a process of change within the legitimate framework of authority here." The official East Berlin press continued its campaign yesterday against those arrested and "readers' letters" to *Neues Deutschland* demanded that the "provocateurs" be punished.

Cuba 'pressuring Managua'

From Martha Honey, San José

Nicaraguan rebels involved in negotiations with the Sandinista Government under the Central American peace plan say that Cuba and left-wing forces within the region are quietly pressing the Sandinistas to adopt quickly more political reforms at home and a conciliatory posture towards its neighbours.

These efforts appear to contradict allegations made by President Reagan, in his Contra aid speech on Tuesday night, that Cuba is encouraging Sandinista expansionism throughout the region.

Former Contra officials who are negotiating with the Sandinistas for permission to return to Nicaragua say that they have been offered assistance by both Cuban agents and members of the left wing of Costa Rica's ruling National Liberation Party.

According to one former Contra official, both Cuba and left-wing politicians in Central America believe that "if Managua did not continue to open up its system, it would be dangerous for all centre-left forces in the region" and would lead to an escalation of the US-backed Contra war.

Well-informed sources say that Cuba has also encouraged the left-wing Salvadorean guerrillas to pursue talks with the Duarte Government of El Salvador and has urged the Sandinistas to close down any Salvadorean guerrilla facilities within Nicaragua.

President Ortega of Nicaragua visited Cuba soon after the regional peace plan was signed in August, and President Castro publicly endorsed the plan.

On the eve of the US Congress vote on Contra aid, the Nicaraguan Government and the country's main Indian rebel organization signed an accord in Managua agreeing to halt all hostile actions.

They are to continue talks aimed at ending the seven-year-old war. A delegation of 10 dissident Indian and Creole leaders had spent two weeks in Nicaragua, negotiating with the Government and touring the Atlantic coast.

The agreement was signed late on Tuesday by the Interior Minister, Señor Tomás Borge, and Señor Brooklyn Rivera, the leader of Yataná, the rebel Atlantic coast movement. According to an official involved in the negotiations, the three-page accord covers "political, social and economic issues, including a number of points related to autonomy and land rights."

Chile opposition closes ranks

United effort to halt Pinochet

From Lake Sagaris, Santiago

Chile's divided opposition has made a decisive move towards unity with a joint call to Chileans by 13 conservative, centrist and left-wing parties to vote "No" to the military Government's sole presidential candidate in a plebiscite later this year.

It is believed widely that the military junta will name President Pinochet as its candidate to govern Chile until 1997. He has ruled the country since the 1973 military coup.

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While the opposition debates its strategy, General Pinochet has been hard at work campaigning. Extensive television advertising is only the tip of the iceberg.

From billboards throughout Santiago a beautiful girl gazes

shyly at Chile's national flower and the slogan beneath: "Chile, our promised land."

On television bells toll as rich whitefields sway, homes and hospitals mushroom and pure drinking water bubbles into the sinks of smiling housewives.

There is one constant image: the smiling face of General Pinochet, in civilian clothes, kissing children and bestowing homes on the homeless.

"Basically, the Government has two campaigns," Señor Rivas said. "One is a general campaign to destroy opposition organizations, including part of the Catholic Church; the other depends on people active at the municipal level. That began years ago."

At a special meeting in 1986, the deputy Secretary of the Interior, Señor Alberto Cardenal, outlined to 335 Government-appointed mayors a national plan for civic action: its explicit objective was "getting the majority of Chileans to support the Government" in the plebiscite.

"This (the plebiscite) will not be a friendly contest," he told the mayors. "The very survival of the regime will be at stake."

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People have faith in us and we have faith in people. People have faith in us because for 21 years we have proved ourselves to be able to transform the quality of life for patients with advanced cancer and their families. At St. Christopher's Hospice, we provide the expert medical care, the comfort and peace of mind which our patients need at the end of their lives. We offer care at home for those who are able to stay in their own surroundings, and a refuge for those who cannot. We also provide a counselling service for the bereaved, because we understand the grief which comes with terminal illness. Our care and our teaching have had an impact nationwide. We have faith in people. We must, because we rely on gifts from the public to keep going. Despite the fact that we are a registered charity, with some support from the NHS, we are in constant need of further help to maintain our wards and day rooms, to improve the facilities which enhance the quality of life for our patients and, above all, to retain the skilled and compassionate staff whose dedication helps to create a tender, caring environment. If you feel able to spare a little of your income in order to help us to meet our present needs and to increase our ability to help those who come to us for help, please send your donation to: Dame Cicely Saunders, St. Christopher's Hospice, Room No. 201, 51/59 Lawrie Park Road, London SE26 6DZ or telephone 01-778 9252 ext 205.

Please give generously

Botha leads celebration of Dias's arrival at the Cape 500 years ago

Coloureds boycott re-enactment of an historic landing

From Michael Hornsby, Mossel Bay, South Africa

The landfall exactly 500 years ago of the Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias was re-created here yesterday in a ceremony boycotted by local Coloureds (mixed race), who include among their ancestors the Hottentots people who then inhabited this region.

So effective was the boycott that no Coloureds could be found to play the part of the natives in the re-enactment of their historic meeting with Dias, the first European to set foot on the beach of what is now a pretty resort and fishing town much frequented by Afrikaners.

The organizers had to make do with six young white men and women wearing fuzzy wigs, loincloths and liberal coatings of walnut juice. Most of the 8,000 or so mainly white spectators on the grassy slope above the beach seemed unaware of the deception. Among them was President Botha, his wife, and senior members of his Cabinet, who watched proceedings from an enclosure under a canopy.

Earlier, Mr Botha had boarded a South African Navy survey vessel and sailed out of the harbour to salute the arrival of a replica of Dias's caravel.

The high-sterned boat, rigged with two triangular lateen sails emblazoned with red crosses and displacing no more than 130 tons, had left Lisbon 88 days ago, captained by Mr Emilio de Sousa, a

Mossel Bay sailor, with a crew of eight South Africans and eight Portuguese.

The vessel dropped anchor just outside the harbour, and Captain de Sousa and his crew, in period costume, rowed ashore in a longboat to be greeted by a microphone and the man from the South African Broadcasting Corporation, a fate that Dias himself was spared.

It was on February 3, 1488, that the Portuguese seafarer landed here after becoming the first European to round the Cape of Good Hope — without having realized at first that he had done so. In its time it was as big a technological advance as the 20th-century landing on the Moon.

"We are all on a voyage into the future," Mr Botha told the crowd. "The road we take, and the modern means that we have to undertake that journey, have been left to us by the pioneers of the past. But every generation should be pioneers of their time in order to ensure the safe continuation of the voyage for posterity."

Mr Botha noted that one of the main reasons for Dias's voyage was to find a sea route to India and the Far East, to compensate for the loss of the land trade route severed by the fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks. "In those days," he added sourly, "Europe did not believe in trade boycotts."

When Dias and his men

landed they went to fetch water from a nearby spring. Hottentots gathered. One, it is recorded, threw a stone, whereupon Dias shot him dead with a crossbow, setting a pattern for black-white relations that has unhappily continued to this day.

History was tactfully revised in the pageant played out for Mr Botha and his party. "How are the natives?" asked Senator Mannel Escorcia, a popular Portuguese-born singer playing the part of Dias. "They seem friendly enough," one of his companions replied.

Senator Escorcia then broke into a rendering of "Ave Maria" backed by an all-white choir of children.

The move to boycott the festivities was initiated by the Rev Allan Hendricks, leader of the Labour Party, the majority group in the House of Representatives, Coloureds' chamber of South Africa's tricameral Parliament.

His main reason for doing so was the continued segregation of Mossel Bay's beaches. Apartheid was relaxed to allow Coloureds to attend yesterday's ceremony, but will be reimposed from today. Only a scattering of Coloureds, who outnumber whites by more than three to one in Mossel Bay and its adjacent non-white settlements, turned out yesterday.

The feelings of many local Coloureds was summed up by



President Botha, with the Administrator of Cape Province, Mr Gene Louw, left, greeting the replica of Bartolomeu Dias's sailing ship when it arrived at Mossel Bay yesterday.

Mr Samuel Williams, headmaster of the Erika primary school for Coloureds, who said it would have been better if Dias had sailed past without setting foot here. "His arrival was the start of the process whereby white men dispossessed black South Africans of their land."

Violence spreads: The year of violence in black townships around Pietermaritzburg, the Natal capital, which has claimed 400 lives, spilled into the city yesterday for the second time in 24 hours (Ray Kennedy writes). Several people were said to have been stabbed when the

headquarters of the Council of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) was attacked by black youths. Mr Adriaan Vlok, Minister of Law and Order, ordered police reinforcements to the area after the stabbing to death of a 14-year-old boy in the centre of Pietermaritzburg.

French election campaign

Tortoise Barre outpaced by Chirac the hare

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

As presidential candidates go, M Raymond Barre is not exactly a campaign manager's dream. The very thought of grabbing the headlines with a spot of old-fashioned political razzmatazz seems to pain him.

Perhaps this explains the oddly cumbersome decision to announce a couple of weeks ago that he would be entering the running formally at exactly 11 am on Monday in his Lyons constituency.

A bit short on fireworks, that, especially with the comparison with the glittering — some might say glib — send-off which earlier marked

Paris — There is disheartening news for the Barre camp this morning in an opinion poll in *Paris-Match* (Our Own Correspondent writes). While President Mitterrand is still far ahead, M Barre has been pushed into third place with 19.5 per cent against the 22 per cent of M Jacques Chirac. With other polls expected to confirm that the "tortoise" is fast losing ground, M Barre must regret his decision to hold back from the campaign.

M Jacques Chirac's impeccably timed entry into the fray. But then M Barre's main objective appears to be to demonstrate how radically he differs from his dazzling and prodigiously energetic rival for the right-wing vote in the first stage of the election late in April.

What is more, as the self-proclaimed "tortoise" in an increasingly ragged contest to face (as most observers assume) M François Mitterrand in the second round two weeks later, M Barre seems to be doing pretty well. Yet at the very moment he embarks upon his "official" campaign, the opinion poll shows that M Chirac — the hare personified — is overhauling him rapidly.

An American journalist who asked the other day if he was getting rattled received a measured and revealing response. "I believe one should never confuse agitation and movement. I detect agitation and excitement."

Small, earnest and unashamedly primed, not unlike a good many of the solid citizens he represents, 63-year-old M Barre is no great public speaker, certainly no master of television. But as he stumps back and forth across France delivering what often sound more like reproofing lectures than appeals for popular support, deftly exploiting his reputation for moderation and consistency, audiences have clearly been impressed.

Perhaps voters had forgotten or forgiven the five years (1976-81) of economic belt-tightening that made him despotically unpopular when he was President Giscard d'Estaing's Prime Minister. Perhaps the French rather warmed to the only candidate who will not try to "soften" them. "I'm not an ordinary fellow discussing the real problems our country faces," he told farmers on a recent trip down in the Meuse (having been summoned to meet "the future head of state"), they may well have gone away rather disappointed.

An ordinary fellow? Elsewhere on the French right, especially in the Chirac camp, they would tell you that M Raymond Barre is a calculating and cynical politician who

pursues nothing but his own selfish interests behind the camouflage of the Union pour la Démocratie Française, the centrist coalition with which he is loosely associated in the National Assembly.

There is an interesting theory that M Barre's outwardly austere, even distant, manner owes much to the childhood trauma of seeing his father, a prominent *bourgeois d'affaires* on the French island of Réunion, manacled and marched off to jail to stand trial for fraud. Although Barre Senior was acquitted, he left Réunion for good soon afterwards: Raymond, then four, never saw him again.

From that searing experience, some suggest, comes his ferocious will to succeed: to outshine the competition at school and university, to dominate in argument, to conquer in politics. If this drive sometimes spills over into a certain intellectual arrogance in public — he is said to believe that President Mitterrand is the only politician as brainy as himself — the private man, friends insist, is cultured, jolly and entertaining.

Originally steered from university life into politics by General de Gaulle, he became Prime Minister after the resignation of M Chirac, whose RPR party now claims exclusive rights to the Gaullist legacy. In the 1981 presidential election, M Barre casually chose the sidelines while the



M Barre, as viewed by the cartoonist from *Liberation*.

bitter hostilities between M Chirac and the other candidate of the right, M Giscard d'Estaing, contributed to the Mitterrand triumph.

Five years later, when the right took control of the National Assembly, M Barre loyally rejected the notion of co-operation with a Socialist President and made no secret of his feelings when the more pliable M Chirac signed on for duty under the banner of "cohabitation".

Relations between the two men were never particularly warm (the RPR once boasted a totally unfounded rumour that M Barre had been a collaborator during the Nazi occupation of France) and are now deteriorating daily, despite frantic public relations efforts to present the divided right as a united front.

Can M Barre stay the course over the next three months against the well-oiled machine behind the whirlwind "Allez Chirac! Allez France!" campaign? Those volubly dark, double-breasted suits he savours conceal a tough and, if need be, ruthless political operator who knows in his heart that there is no going to be another chance. He will not go down without a fight.

Buddhist monks released in Tibet

Peking (Reuters) — All monks from Lhasa's Buddhist monasteries, except one, have been released from jail, but Tibet's capital remains tense as pilgrims arrive for the Tibetan New Year festivities on February 18. Last month monastery sources said 26 monks were still in jail after protests against China's rule in September and October. The monks were among 59 people freed, a Western resident said.

Jakes switch

Prague (AP) — President Husak has been replaced by Mr Milos Jakes, the Czechoslovak party leader, as chairman of the National Front's Central Committee, an umbrella organization of social groups. Mr Jakes will make an official visit to Poland in the next few days.

Officers freed

Rosario Aires (Reuters) — The Argentine Army has released 38 non-commissioned officers accused of joining a military last month led by the rebel commander, Señor Aldo Rico.

Shanty blaze

Rangoon (AP) — Three people were killed and nearly 5,000 left homeless by a fire which destroyed 595 buildings in a shanty town.

US threatened

Manila (Reuters) — Communist rebels have renewed threats to attack US personnel in the Philippines to punish Americans for their support of the Government's anti-insurgency campaign.

Minister out

Ottawa (AP) — Mr Michel Corbeil, Supply and Services Minister, was dismissed for failing to report a loan which may have violated the federal conflict-of-interest code.

Freedom call

Vladivostok (Reuters) — Czechoslovak church activists have collected at least 215,000 signatures for an appeal for more religious freedom.

Killer hanged

Kabul (AP) — Mahmood Ahmad, convicted of murdering his mother and a sister, became the fourth person to be publicly hanged in Pakistan in the last fortnight.

Steam sale

Nairobi (Reuters) — Kenya Railways is selling 86 mostly British-made steam locomotives.

Rebel murder

Dhaka — Bangladesh tribal guerrillas fighting for a home-land killed five Bengali villagers in the Chittagong Hills.

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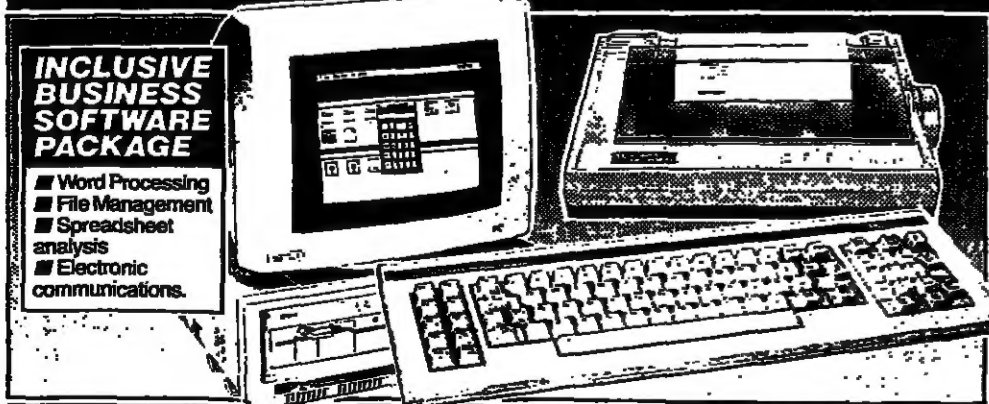
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US general warns of 'suicide' raids on Seoul Olympics

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

The United States Commander of Combined Forces in South Korea believes North Korean suicide commands may attempt to disrupt preparations for the Seoul Olympic Games, and that they will be almost impossible to stop by conventional military means.

General Louis Menetrey, who has operational control of half a million South Korean and 40,000 American personnel, admitted yesterday: "It would be difficult to stop, or to foresee in advance, certain types of terrorism."

His remarks confirmed a statement by a senior military source in the Times last month that there was a serious threat of bomb and assassination attempts before the Games in September.

He also confirmed a report in a Hong Kong newspaper of a train carrying armaments from China to North Korea in December. The newspaper said 120 people were killed and 5,000 injured by the blast near a North Korean border town, which destroyed buildings within a radius of a mile and a half. He said he "knew that it happened" and agreed it may have been the work of saboteurs, but he gave no other details.

General Menetrey said there was a distinct threat from North Korea, which was likely to take the form of attacks by small groups of special agents, rather than overt military action.

"We are ill-equipped to deal with terrorism because the whole objective of terrorism is incomprehensible to us," he told foreign correspondents. "A small force of a few

individuals is almost impossible to apprehend ahead of time, and if they are determined enough and willing to risk their own lives, it is very difficult to stop."

However, he was confident that South Korea's pervasive security agencies were equal to the task. "Security for the Olympics is a Korean matter, and in my view they are perfectly capable of fulfilling that responsibility."

General Menetrey's optimism is not shared by the Times source, who said he anticipated that "the odd one or two" terrorist operations might succeed. The destruction of a South Korean airliner with 115 people on board last November could be followed by similar attacks, he said.

While the clandestine conflict may remain officially an inter-Korean affair, Washington intends to provide its ally with military support — both discreet and visible — for the Olympics.

General Menetrey confirmed that substantial naval and air forces would be deployed in the region, notably an aircraft carrier battle group, and that surveillance, which he declined to specify, would be increased.

The US sent similar forces to South Korea for the Asian Games in 1986, but was unable to prevent a bomb attack at Seoul's Kimp'o airport which killed five people and wounded at least 30.

General Menetrey considers a big North Korean offensive unlikely, given the increasing strength of South Korean forces — which he expects to match those of Pyongyang

within the next decade — and the US commitment.

"For 35 years war has been deterred here by a balance of forces and that fact remains, so an overt military attack in my view would be foolhardy. But it is always a possibility and we must always be ready for it."

With remarkable candour, the four-star general admitted that he knew little of Pyongyang's intentions. "If I understood the motivations behind everything that happened up north, my job would be a lot easier," he said. "I have no way of discerning their motivations, they appear to act irrationally. It is a very closed and secretive society."

He suggested that analysis was complicated by uncertainty over the power of Kim Jong Il — the son and heir of President Kim Il Sung, the North Korean leader — who is alleged to have ordered the recent aircraft sabotage.

"There may be a good deal of division up there about what to do. Kim Jong Il may not head everybody up there. There may be dissension."

General Menetrey disclosed that on Tuesday North Korea identified for the first time the remains of two American servicemen reported missing in action in the 1950-1953 Korean War. However, he refused to discuss their return because it had been "liberalised" by the Korean Airline affair. The American side sent a message yesterday requesting a meeting on Friday, he said.

North Korea last handed over remains in 1954, and the fate of more than 8,000 missing Americans is still unknown.

Alabama school hostages freed



A family reunion for Mr. Dan Carden, head of a school in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, after he was held hostage with 26 pupils by a mentally disturbed Vietnam war veteran for 12 hours. The siege ended when police tricked the gunman outside; another kidnapper surrendered earlier.

Taiwan's old guard MPs pensioned off

Taipei (Reuters) — Ageing members of Taiwan's Parliament, elected 40 years ago in China, will be pushed into retirement under a reform package designed to breathe new life into the legislature.

The ruling Nationalist Party yesterday approved proposals under which mainland Chinese deputies will be offered pensions and asked to step down. At the same time, the number of seats open to election will be increased.

Most members of Parliament were voted into office in China before the Nationalist Government fled to Taiwan in 1949 after the Communist victory. Many are in their eighties and nineties. Some are senile and confined to hospital. They have stayed in office because the Government asserts that it still rules the mainland and that Taiwan is only a province of China.

A limited number of parliamentary seats have been opened recently to election from "Taiwan province".

The latest concession, made at a meeting of the party's Central Standing Committee, falls far short of satisfying

Opposition demands that all seats in Parliament be open to election immediately. The plan calls for mainland members to be phased out gradually from next year. The proposal does not say how many extra seats will be open to election.

Mainland deputies fill about two-thirds of the 312-seat legislature and all but about 80 places in the 940-seat National Assembly, which meets every six years to elect the President and Vice-President. Some of the legislators were runners-up in the 1947 elections in China and were appointed to office after the winners died on Taiwan. Others live overseas, adding to the Government's problem of getting a quorum for legislative sessions.

Taiwan's new President and acting Nationalist Party chairman, Mr Lee Teng-hui, presided over yesterday's meeting. Mr Lee has pledged to continue democratic reforms championed by President Chiang Ching-kuo, who died last month. The reforms are designed to give the native Taiwanese majority a greater say in government.

Thai planes pound Laotians in border dispute

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Thai Air Force aircraft have been making their heaviest attacks on Laotian troops entrenched on hills in a disputed area claimed by both countries. General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, the military chief, yesterday described the air attacks as "drastic action" which had become necessary because Laos had occupied Thai territory for the past eight months.

The National Security Council has been meeting in Bangkok to consider the closure of the entire 1,000-mile

border between two countries. Large sections were closed last week, disrupting trade and other contacts.

The Thais launched air attacks on Laotian positions late last year but the 34 bombing and strafing runs this week were the heaviest yet. Laotian forces fired anti-aircraft shells and ground-to-air missiles, but the Thais said that all their aircraft returned safely to base. Laos reported that its troops had shot down one Thai plane.

Thai officers said that the air attacks enabled infantry to advance and capture two hills from the Laotians,

but about 200 Laotian soldiers were still holding out on other hilltops from where they could dominate the surrounding area.

No recent casualty figures have been disclosed, but the Thai officers said that losses in the latest ground fighting had been considerable.

General Chavalit said the artillery strikes had been carried out skillfully and must have been Vietnamese because Laotian forces did not have that kind of experience. Vietnam is estimated to have about 50,000 troops in Laos. He said that Vietnamese

involvement in the conflict made it much more dangerous.

Some artillery shells from Laos have fallen on Thai villages, but no civilians have been injured. Laotian troops have also shot dead Thai fishermen on the Mekong river in places where people on both sides have had such friendly relations that the border is normally ignored.

Thailand and Laos are disputing the possession of 30 square miles of remote rugged countryside which are either in Thailand's Phitsanulok province or Laos's Sayaboury province.

Weather-vanes of glasnost

Magazine editors do battle for their right to criticize

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

In a style more reminiscent of *The Front Page* than of the *Twilight Zone*, the magazine editors of *Ogoniok*, Mr Vitya Korotich, editor of the popular weekly *Ogoniok*, yesterday swept out of his office after receiving a call on the special telephone sitting under a portrait of Lenin.

"You are a newspaperman. You will understand. I have to call my editorial board together immediately. Someone is trying to stop the publication of an important article," he shouted, ending our interview as he bounded through the door to do battle with officials trying to prevent his printing a piece sharply critical of Soviet industry.

For many Soviet intellectuals, Mr Korotich's continuing presence in the editorial chair of *Ogoniok* (founded 1923) is the most reassuring sign that, despite the recent evidence of a conservative backlash against *glasnost* and *perestroika*, the reform programme of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev is still going forward.

Within the past month, Mr Korotich has been condemned on television by General Dmitry Yazov, the Defence Minister, for having published an alleged "obscenity" about the Army, denounced in a key article in *Pravda*, and lampooned by a group of Ukrainian writers for allegedly living on a "diet of black caviar" during the now discredited Brezhnev era.

Ever since last year's brutal sacking of Mr Boris Yeltsin, the Kremlin reformer, Soviet sources have been predicting the imminent downfall of Mr Korotich and his fellow passenger in the vanguard of *glasnost*, Mr Yegor Yakovlev, editor of the weekly *Moscow News*, which also specializes in the type of independent journalism not previously seen in the Soviet Union.

"I am a passionate believer

in openness and I positively enjoy controversy. If I am being attacked, I know that the magazine is being read," Mr Korotich said before leaving to fight another round with the bureaucrats determined to stifle his journal.

As well as enjoying the support of Mr Gorbachev, Mr Korotich, a Ukrainian poet and author, has the demonstrable backing of a sizeable section of the public.

Since he took over *Ogoniok* in 1986, the print run of what was then a dreary weekly famous mainly for printing Socialist Realist art reproductions, has jumped from 500,000 (200,000 of which were regularly scrapped unsold) to its present record of 1,113,000, each copy selling at 40 kopecks (40p), which is not cheap in Soviet terms.

"The only problem is a shortage of paper, otherwise we could easily sell three million or more."

A list of the disputes the magazine has had with the authorities would run to several pages. The most celebrated came late last year when its party watchdog committee secured the removal from the editorial board of Mr Dmitry Biryakov, the foreign editor, for having allegedly concocted an opinion poll showing little public backing for *perestroika*.



Mr Korotich: Champion of Gorbachev reforms.

"Our postbag has jumped from 20 to around 300 letters a week, most from people urging us to keep up the good work," Mr Korotich said. "Those against us do not write, they go straight to the Government, the Council of Ministers, the KGB, or whomever, in an attempt to pull rank on us for whatever they object to."

A hero to many intellectuals, Mr Korotich is equally anathema to the opponents of reform, who have taken heart from the attacks launched against him by Mr Yegor Ligachev, the Kremlin No.2 and leader of the conservative wing inside the party.

The other editor who has been attacked by Mr Ligachev is Mr Yakovlev, who took over the editorship of *Moscow News* from Mr Gennady Gerasimov, now the Kremlin's chief spokesman, in 1985.

Since then it has rapidly become, with *Ogoniok*, the journal most sought after by Western correspondents and Soviet intellectuals. Although printed in five languages and designed chiefly for foreign consumption, its Russian edition is heavily over-subscribed and sells on the black market for 10 times its cover price of 10 kopecks.

Moscow News has carried a number of firsts, including reports of strikes against the Kremlin's economic policy, a photograph of Mathias Rust's plane, and a copy of a letter by 10 prominent Soviet emigres which stated, among other things, that "70 years of communist doctrine have brought one of the richest countries on earth to ruin."

One Western diplomat said that he studied the mastheads of *Ogoniok* and *Moscow News* every week just to check that Messrs Korotich and Yakovlev were still in place. "They are the weather-vanes of *glasnost*," he said. "If they are removed we will know that a real backlash is under way."

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IT PAYS TO LISTEN TO EXPERTS.

Spain works out bases deal

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

United States and Spanish officials yesterday began negotiating the details here of a new defence pact, designed to last for eight years, covering American bases here.

Both sides indicated that the main elements of the new pact, such as the issue of compensation, had been agreed in outline after last month's resolution of the main problem. This was Madrid's demand for the withdrawal over three years of all 72 US Air Force F16 fighter aircraft stationed at the Torrejon based near here.

Mr Reginald Bartholomew, the chief American negotiator and Ambassador to Madrid, told a Spanish reporter the other day: "We certainly disagree on the F16s, but we don't want to heighten differences between allies."

He did not tell the Spaniards yesterday of any timetable for the departure of the F16s, which belong to the USAF 401 Tactical Fighter Wing.

Agreement on the new defence arrangement has to be reached before May 14, when the previous defence co-operation and friendship pact expires. The US is now negotiating with its Nato allies, particularly Italy, about the possible transfer of the F16s to another European location.

A feature of the new pact will be the absence for the first time of economic compensation for Spain for the use of what are technically joint facilities. Madrid has been disappointed to learn that \$400 million (£225 million) in

credits and aid will not be forthcoming.

Important points remain to be settled. These include what facilities the Americans will still have at Torrejon, and what proportion of the 4,000 US personnel presently stationed there will stay on.

Spain has promised that full facilities will be available in times of crisis and "in support of Nato reinforcement plans."

Another matter still to be decided is whether the USAF refuelling tanker aircraft, at present stationed at Zaragoza in north-eastern Spain, are to be removed, as Madrid originally wanted.

In future, agreements covering technological, scientific, educational and cultural matters will be kept separate from the defence pact.

SPECTRUM

Britain's chess prodigy has reached the the world championship quarter-finals: but has he the maturity to take Kasparov's crown?

Master of a black and white world

THE TIMES
PROFILE
NIGEL SHORT

Nigel Short certainly looks the part. He is tall with round wire-framed glasses and the unhealthy pallor of a schoolboy who spends break indoors. His conversation is hesitant, faintly giggly and a touch arrogant. He is a 22-year-old teenager who, 17 years ago, discovered a game he was destined to play for the rest of his life. He was sitting on the arm of a chair watching his father explain the rules of chess to his brother.

Martin, two years older, was assumed to be ready for the intricacies of chess whereas Nigel was not. He already had a precocious interest in war games and he saw at once that chess was basically war. He picked up the moves and, within days, was beating both his brother and his father.

From that point onwards his life was dominated by the arbitrary complexities of 64 black and white squares and 32 wooden pieces. "I was completely crazy about chess," he says now. "All I wanted to do was play chess."

By the age of seven he was established as a nationally important junior player and was hungrily following the epic world championship confrontation between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky. By nine he was famous outside the specialized circles of chess and had taken on all the alarming and ominous attributes of a child prodigy — in most fields such freakish kids generally vanish without trace. At 11 he was the best player in the world for his age and at 12 he beat Dr Jonathan Penrose, 10 times British champion, in a game of just 41 moves.

His father, a journalist, by this time had taken on the management of his career. Short had been born in Leigh near Bolton and the family had subsequently moved to Atherton in Greater Manchester. He was sent to Bolton School, reputedly the best in the area and one with a strong chess tradition. It is, however, fee-paying and it is thought that Short's fees were paid by an anonymous benefactor. Short himself is evasive about this, but it is generally known that he has received financial backing over the years from somebody who wishes to keep out of the limelight. "I didn't enjoy Bolton School," he confided this week

from his hotel in St John, Canada, where he has reached the world championship quarter-finals. "I played too much chess. They wanted me to play for the school team all the time. I'm not sure it's a good idea to play a lot of games against players weaker than yourself."

Richard Freeman, the teacher who was in charge of chess at the time, remembers Short as being remarkably modest in view of the quality of his game. "He was very deferential towards members of staff who were nothing like as good as he was. He was also an immensely good teacher, which is quite rare among very good players. He would tailor his explanations to the level of the person he was talking to. But when he was talking to somebody he considered his equal, the speed and depth of his analysis meant that even quite good players couldn't follow him."

For a brief period at Bolton, Short had his own pop group — The Urge — in which he was the bass player. But Freeman recalls that Short never had any doubt that he wanted to play chess full time. This meant that the attention he gave to other academic work was strictly limited. He scraped through with four O levels and the school then tried to persuade him to stay on.

"The British chess renaissance hadn't happened then," Freeman says. "So they couldn't quite believe that anybody could make their living at the game."

But Short had always been single-minded and, increasingly, a loner. His parents' marriage had broken up while he was at Bolton and, in 1985, he moved into another house with his older brother. Alone with his chess, a broken family behind him and an almost non-existent academic record, he was rapidly running out of room for manoeuvre — the game was all he had.

In the event his gamble worked. His progress over the next six years was to be continually upwards. After a spectacular series of triumphs he became the world's youngest Grandmaster at 19 and last Saturday's draw in Canada



with Hungary's Gyula Sax means that, along with Jon Speelman, he is the first British player to reach the world quarter-finals. He is now officially ranked sixth. From the Canadian tournament seven players will emerge to be joined by Victor Karpov. The best player of these eight will then take on the world champion, Gary Kasparov, in 1990.

"I think if I played Kasparov now he would crush me. But perhaps by then I will have a

chance," Short says. The point about such confrontations in chess is that there is a far smaller chance element than in other sports. Short, in fact, beat Kasparov in 1986; but, in a full-scale championship, performances tend to average out. Chance victories become irrelevant.

So what are his prospects? Raymond Keene, The Times Chess correspondent and organiser of the 1986 World championship, says Short's game

has tended to be intuitive. He sees him as a strategic rather than tactical player; this means he tends to pursue a plan rather than to work out elaborate variations. He often moves "unnervingly quickly".

His weakness has been calculation, the working out of gains and losses over a long series of moves. Short, however, says he has been striving to eliminate this problem and points out that you cannot become one of the 10 best players

1965: Born Leigh, Greater Manchester; educated Bolton School.
1972: Made his name in national chess circles.
1973: Beat Grandmaster Viktor Korchnoi.
1976: Qualified for the adult British Chess Championship.
1977: Beat British champion Dr Jonathan Penrose.
1980: Wins International Master rating.

1982: Draws with Anatoly Karpov then world champion.
1984: Becomes youngest Grandmaster and Britain's youngest ever chess champion.
1986: Defeats world champion Gary Kasparov at O'HRA tournament, Brussels.
1987: Wins All-Grandmaster Tournament, Marries Rea.
1988: Ranked sixth in the world.

in the world unless most such weaknesses have been largely dealt with.

Keene hopes Short will not have to play Karpov in the next round. The Russian, now aged 36, will soon be past his peak, while Short is still improving. The longer he can put off such a match, the better his chances. He can play no such waiting game with Kasparov; he is only two years older than Short.

It is a real problem, however, is the same as any other British chess player who takes on the Russians. Karpov and Kasparov were both spotted early. They were then subjected to years of intensive training. They have vast organizational backing. In effect all they have to worry about is the next move. Short, however, must do almost everything for himself. He must earn his living from chess as well as worrying about the intensive process of continuous learning which is essential if he is to stand any chance against Kasparov.

But there can be little doubt, that so far, he has shown extraordinary resilience. Michael Feldman, a Thames Television producer who knows him well, says he has immense respect for Short's ability to take the pressure and yet remain likeable.

"I know that some people who do not know him well might find him cold," Feldman says. "But he's excellent company when you get to know him. He talks a lot about cars and pop music. But he does sometimes talk like a word processor — in short phrases."

Feldman, along with everybody else, acknowledges that Short was immature. He blames it on the unreal world inhabited by top

chess players. He says he is worried that this unreality will be made worse by a kind of unionization currently going on among the Grandmasters. They have formed a 24-strong super-league known as the Grandmasters Association which will tend to isolate them further within the confines of their strange priesthood.

"Nigel himself came up through the ranks," he says, "but I think it would be much more difficult for players to do the same again."

It is perhaps all part of overcoming the dreadful isolation of the chess player who knows he has only a handful of worthy opponents left in the world. He recently married — a Greek drama therapist called Rea who practises in London — and friends say he has since lost some of his schoolboy style. Furthermore, he has overcome earlier doubts about a future in chess. "Playing chess for the rest of my life seems a wonderful thing to do. It's not all fun but I enjoy the game and I can do what I want the rest of the time."

But the strange wooden emblems on their tessellated board will continue to set him apart. His view of the world outside chess, for example, has an amazingly simple minded quality. I asked him if he was religious. "No. I don't think any of the major chess players are. I don't want to offend anybody, but I think people with a religious belief need an emotional support and I think chess players can see through things like that."

Short seems to believe that his tiny fraternity really is endowed with surpassing wisdom. These few have seen the world and they know it looks like a chess board — an even, lucid pattern of black and white.

Bryan Appleyard
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Search for the real Rembrandt

Rembrandt is one of the biggest names in art: the original Old Master. But, as has recently become apparent, he is also the most elusive. During the 19th century, his works mysteriously expanded to an estimated 1,000. Now, in the zealous hands of the five-man Rembrandt Research Project — a self-appointed team based in Amsterdam — it is fast contracting towards a prospective 300.

"Row over Rembrandts", "The National disowns three Rembrandts", "Sorting the Rembrandts from the remnants" read the headlines. The trouble is that for all their X-rays and paint samples, scientists can only confirm that the works in question are of the correct period. Academics are in similar difficulties due to the impossible amount of travel required to assess all the works involved; photographs are unsatisfactory. And for an art curator to throw doubt on the authenticity of a colleague's collection is to take his life into his hands.

Despite its definitive intention — the systematic weeding out of all the imposters — the Research Project's methods are also questionable. They do not use scientists because "the homogeneity of method and results would be served best

artfile



SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

A weekly look at the art world

by forming a team of art historians only."

The bulk of their examination is limited to surface inspection only. Having worked part-time on it for more than 20 years, the team's recollection of specific paintings must have faded; during the time, two of their number have died.

Two weeks ago, the National Gallery ran a symposium to discuss the findings of the Project, and Rembrandt experts gathered from around the world. But by all accounts, it turned out to be a too-gentlemanly affair, and little was achieved.

As the experts argue over what is or is not a genuine Rembrandt, an artist claims that what counts is the spirit behind the painting



Rembrandt in a self-portrait: the most elusive Old Master

the quiet, restrained suffering in his painted subjects — the God in Everyman — and finding it leaves us feeling contented.

Similarly, we expect to see the ultimate in his technique: superb drawing; breathtaking lighting effects. It does not fit our image of him to find faults, like a perfunctory limb, or a badly turned collar.

This also appears to be the problem with the Rembrandt Research Project. Like some victim of its own logic, it argues that whenever the workmanship is under par, it must be by some lesser artist. And so an understudy is deemed responsible for the goofy steed in the National Gallery's "Man on a Horse", not to mention the collar in the "Philips Lucas" portrait. Even one of the most intimate — and, one might have thought, unassailable — works of all is under suspicion: the National's portrait of his wife Saskia, potentially damned as by an unconvincing hand.

"He was an incredibly varied artist — a manic depres-

sive, perhaps — and he doesn't always hit the nail on the head, but I still think he was a genius," says Konstam.

It is equally dangerous to assume that Rembrandt always worked alone. As was general practice at that time, he had assistants — Isaac Jouderville, for instance — to whom he gave board and lodging as well as training. It was common for younger artists to work in the style of the master.

As Professor Josua Bruyn of the project has said: "There are many more hands at work than we name." Indeed, the real Rembrandt may have been a kind of brand name, like Gucci or Asprey, for any product which came out of his studio.

Most of the works in question are in public museums. They will never come up for sale, so their possible worth is irrelevant. And, as with all great art, the real "Rembrandt" becomes a personal thing — the painting which has the power to move the individual.

Whereas art historians have agreed to demote the National Gallery's "An Old Man in an Armchair" on the grounds that "a greater degree of stylistic coherence must be expected from Rembrandt", Konstam insists on reaffirming its greatness: "The experts say its face is sentimental, I say it is moving."

Perhaps the most constructive conclusion to all this debate is simply that it is all irrelevant. Rembrandt — and his assistants for that matter — painted humanity for the benefit of humanity. It is now up to us to resist the temptation to read the label before appraising the painting, and instead, look at what it has to offer.

Ruskin, the spirit guide

John Ruskin will be back, at least as a guiding spirit to British art, when the first volume of *Modern Painters 1988*-style is published later this month.

A quarterly journal edited by art critic Peter Fuller, its choice of title is deliberately borrowed from Ruskin, partly as a tribute to the great 19th century poet, moralist and art critic, partly as a statement about its aims.

"There is this huge doubt about modernism, and there has been a tendency over the last 25 years to follow America in everything," says Fuller. "The journal is the answer to the crisis." He believes we are now witnessing a revival of a national tradition, and it needs some guidance from his stable of critics.

These will include, in the first issue, Lord Gowrie on Freud — "basically a strong affirmation piece on him" — and Roger Scruton

deflating the reputation of "living artists" Gilbert and George.

Other artists on his list for examination and assessment are Moore, Hockney and Bacon. "They are barely covered in the contemporary art magazines and so are not getting consistent critical re-evaluation. But if you pick up the *Times Literary Supplement*, the new novel by Iris Murdoch takes the fiction section."

Meanwhile, the Tate Gallery prepares for its seminar on "Deconstruction — the New Modernism" on March 26. Billed as "controversial... one of the most exciting tendencies in art" today, no one seems very clear what it actually is. Fuller dismisses the movement as another in-grown pursuit of the contemporary art establishment. "That's the sort of thing we at *Modern Painters* are reacting against."

The philosophy of the Thames is being taken to India — and the wisdom of the Ganges returns

A guru from Cheam

Sewerage, says David Triggs is the Cinderella of civil engineering, and sewage plant maintenance is the Cinderella of sewerage. His house is in East Cheam, which is pure, distilled Surrey suburbia. His office is in the clearer reaches of the Thames Valley, but his heart is in the River Ganges, arguably the biggest sewer in the world.

Since 1985, Triggs and a small team of colleagues from Thames Water have been helping the Indian Government to clean up that mighty ribbon of water which both sustains and is polluted by 12 cities in the sub-continent. He is a pivotal part of the multi-million pound Ganga Action Plan, which Rajiv Gandhi has placed high on his list of priorities.

Triggs now visits India about five times a year for periods of a few weeks, and will probably continue to do so until the clean-up operation is complete. But to forecast that date would be folly: Gandhi's original vision was five years at the earliest; 10 is a more realistic guess. Whatever the outcome, no period will be too long for Triggs, whose conventional, grey-suited mien belies the inner man. To meet him for any length of time is to be constantly surprised.

You expect something on the stark logistics of cleaning up a Third World river which has become a conduit of water-borne disease far more menacing than was the vile and stenchy Thames of Victorian London. But Triggs is hardly a typical member of the effluent society. "The general belief in the West is that you are your body, and that's it; that's the sum total of your identity. In the Ganges, there is so much death: it surrounds you. When you see the response to that presence, when you see that it holds no fear, it becomes utterly clear that these people are not their bodies."

"The significance of the River Ganges is that it is not



Water authority: David Triggs enjoys the two-way flow.

merely a river, but a life force and a god. The final resting place of the people is in the arms of their mother, of Ganga, and if she is polluted, then this is not as it should be. We do not beat and defile our mother and expect her to wash our clothes. That is not how we treat her." Triggs is saying that, even with the best intentions, pollution will dog the too-rapid growth of cities everywhere.

In India, when he was lecturing on British water, Triggs was confident in the knowledge that he was relating a success story. Since 1973, we have become the only country in the world to operate an "integrated river basin management" system which, in effect, means a single point of control from source to sewage plant — cradle to grave.

He joined a World Bank mission to identify how the Ganga project could benefit from our technical expertise, and lobbied hard at the

Department of Trade and Industry on his return.

"Just as we were the first country with an industrial revolution and all the pollution which that caused, so we were the first to put it right," he says. In terms of pure know-how, Britain may be the donor nation, but Triggs maintains that, on another level, the exchange is in our favour.

"The failure of the West is in its blind belief in material things. It may be a cliché, but what the East has to offer is a profound spiritual wisdom. If our engineers who work out there come back and, in due course, apply to their working relations even a fraction of what they have absorbed, we will have enriched ourselves beyond measure."

Alan Franks

Thames Wallah, a television programme about the work of David Triggs, will be broadcast in 40 Minutes on BBC2 tonight.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1480

ACROSS	1 Long step (6)	4 Narrow sea channel (6)	9 Light anchor (7)	10 Happen again (5)	11 Go rapidly (6)	12 Tremble (7)	14 Unruly outburst (11)	15 Fanciful islands (7)	19 Lymph vessel swelling (4)	22 Laws (5)	24 Light rain (7)	25 Carry too far (6)	26 Dog house (6)		
DOWN	1 Indication (4)	2 Get to (5)	3 Lucia Di Lammermoor composer (9)	5 European lorry symbol (1,1,1)	6 Antiquated (7)	7 Tank top (6)	8 Laurel's partner (6,5)	11 Thick pad (3)	13 Rich sauce (9)	15 Pamper (7)	16 Female sheep (3)	17 Rudimentary state (6)	20 Twelve (5)	21 Bride's face cover (4)	23 Unhappy (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1479
ACROSS: 1 Sully 3 Spiv 9 Extinct 10 Offer 11 Nicks 12 Heave 13 Calix 15 Medal 16 Ultime 18 Gapes 20 Topsy 21 Tapeze 23 None 24 Hesperus
DOWN: 1 Stench 2 Untoward 3 Tin 4 Foozchampere 6 Puff 7 Verlex 8 Concourse 11 Nell Gwyn 14 Landseer 15 Milton 17 Excess 19 Spin 22 Asp

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TIMES DIARY

SHERIDAN MORLEY

Like Queen Victoria, I find myself increasingly worried about Australia. Currently I seem to have out there, in varying degrees of permanent settlement, a sister, a brother, a brother-in-law, a nephew, a niece, a father and a mother. Wandering what they are all up to, I have started watching TV-am, which now comes by satellite from sunny Sydney while the pickers shiver outside their North London studios. All you ever see, though, is an English lady at a desk talking about Aboriginal art. Is there anything at all happening out there? Do they have politics, or economics, or hospital strikes or AIDS or anything that might even remotely qualify as news? If so, could they maybe show us something faintly Australian that didn't look like a pre-war attempt by the local tourist board to encourage immigration by simple-minded swimmers?

Amazingly it still seems to work: 1,000 people a day are now queuing around Australia House in search of visas, presumably so that they can go out to Sydney to be asked by an English lady behind a desk what they think of Aboriginal art. Just around the corner another queue of nearly equal length winds its way around the Strand Theatre trying to book a visa for *Back With A Vengeance*, the Barry Humphries show which takes only fractionally less time than a flight to Melbourne but is a lot funnier. Dame Edna now has the best posters in the West End, and being a lady of impeccable personal habits she puts on fresh ones outside the theatre every week. Currently they read "Latecomers Always Welcome" and "Shorter than Little Dorrit".

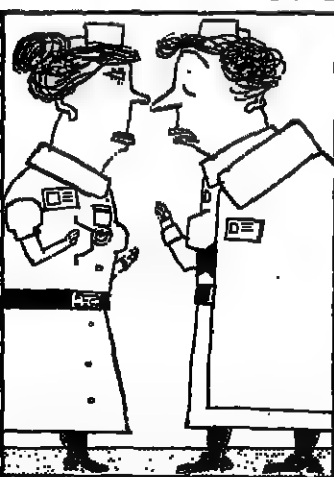
Clearly Tuesday's baroque vision of Gay Activist rope-climbers invading the House of Lords for an absell display will even now be exercising the minds of satirists everywhere. Unfortunately it masks what is the single most terrifying decision I have come across in 20 years of arts reporting: if their Lordships seriously believe, by an 80-vote majority, that Clause 28 should be allowed to stand as a ban on any council sponsorship of entertainment or art which could ever be remotely considered as "promotion" of homosexuality, then we have clearly returned to a pre-Wolfenden era of gay-bashing the like of which most of us thought would never come around again. All we need is for a budding Senator McCarthy to start on the far left, and we shall have got back, if not to Victorian values, then at least to the long-lamented witch-hunts and blackmail charters of the 1950s.

Writing biographies is like getting married every three years or so: you start again with someone new, hoping it's going to work out and that you won't get too bored or regret the whole affair, or forget why you embarked on it in the first place. And of course not all the marriages succeed: sometimes the books you most wanted to write don't sell at all, or the ones you wrote too fast, for the money, turn out embarrassingly to be the ones that people tell you to much preferred.

In 20 years I've published half a dozen lives and struck gold twice, by which I mean the ones I most wanted to write also sold the best. The first was a life of Noël Coward, who gave me access to all his friends and (far more important to a biographer) his enemies, and made it clear that he wanted his first biography to be a critical rather than flattering project. The second was a life of David Niven, written once I'd discovered that his own bestselling memoirs were largely works of fiction in which he treated his own career much as James Herriot or Richard Gordon treated their chosen careers when in pursuit of comic novels.

This week I've been commissioned to start on the book I have been wanting to write ever since I can remember: the authorized biography of our greatest living and working actor Sir John Gielgud, and it is evidently going to be a work of several years' duration. More than any other of the player kings, Gielgud is the history of the English theatre in this century: coming from the Victorian purple of his Terry ancestors, his career stretches from Pinter to Pinter, and next week at 83 he returns to the West End for the first time in a decade. Were his lifelong friend and colleague Sir Ralph Richardson still alive, he would doubtless be firing one of his celebrated rockets from the roof of the Apollo Theatre next Wednesday: I hope someone else does.

BARRY FANTONI



Assuming you have had breakfast, I must now tell you that I have just discovered rather more than I care to know about the phrase "warts and all". During an American television interview last week with an elegant reporter who turned out to be the brother of the Princess of Wales, I couldn't help noticing that his gaze became fixed on a curiously nasty growth at the corner of my right eye. At the weekend I therefore took it to my local doctor, in search of some sort of miracle wart-removing cream. This appears not to exist. What they do with warts, this being 1988 and the age of laser technology, is they take a length of fishing twine, tie it around the offending spot in a knot, and then vaguely hope that the whole thing will eventually drop off. So I now have to go and lecture at the Oscar Academy in Los Angeles with a piece of string sticking out of my right eye. At least it should keep them awake out of sheer curiosity.

It is now more than 28 years since Sir William Haley published in *The Times* my first letter advocating the televising of Parliament. At that time the idea was revolutionary. "Over my dead body" was the instant reaction of most MPs. Aneurin Bevan astonished them when he proposed in 1959 that Parliament should be televised. He was greeted by a groan of "Oh no, Nye!" Bevan hit back:

"I know that members shake their heads, but why should they be so shy? ... All I am suggesting is that in these days ... we should seriously consider re-establishing intelligent communication between the House of Commons and the electorate as a whole. That, surely, is a democratic process."

In the mid-Fifties, when the television age really began, I had often wondered (particularly when reporting the tempestuous Suez debates in 1956) how soon the cameras would be admitted so that the people could see parliamentary government in action. The Commons was not only a legislative assembly, it was the great stage on which the issues and emotions of the day were dramatized. If television

Robin Day argues that MPs cannot keep television at bay for ever

Our Dark Age democrats

was shut out, would not those issues and emotions be dramatized elsewhere — in the television studios or in the streets?

Other questions gave further cause for concern. Were not television interviews and discussions beginning to usurp the function of Parliament? Was it not absurd that our political leaders should be judged by how they answered questions put to them in a television studio by a non-elected interviewer? Why should they not be seen being questioned and challenged in Parliament by those elected for that purpose?

It was in 1958 that the case for television first struck me as overwhelming. Working as a commentator for the first televised State Opening, it did not seem right that it should be restricted to showwits only, the pageantry and pomp of West-

minster while excluded from the real work of Parliament.

As television became more powerful and popular, more MPs began to grasp the essential point: that the nation's prime forum of debate should not shut itself off from the prime medium of mass communication. But though the House of Lords now allows itself to be televised regularly, the Commons has yet to take the plunge. In 1966 a Commons motion to permit a television experiment was defeated by only one vote.

When the Commons debates it yet again, next Tuesday, the arguments will be very familiar. But there is one old worry which today has a new relevance, and which may well decide the vote: will it benefit Parliament to televise the rowdiness and disorder with which Mr Speaker Weatherill now has to contend?

Mrs Thatcher has made her position brutally clear: television will not enhance the reputation of Parliament. But with respect, how can anyone be sure of its effect unless the Commons allows an experiment?

Of course, there are some who claim television can only "trivialize" or "demean" what ever it touches. That is the view of Milton Shulman, the veteran drama critic and scourge of television. His opinion apparently swayed the vote of some MPs when the issue was last debated. Shulman declares: "From every institution TV embraces, it demands an obeisance to showwits values." What monstrous nonsense. Did television demean the Coronation, broadcast despite last-ditch opposition? Has it trivialized the party conferences, the State Opening, or dozens of other

memorable occasions at Westminster. Have the cameras in the Upper House demanded "obeisance to showwits values" by their Lordships? Mr Shulman will no doubt gleefully point to this week's lesbian invasion. But publicity-seeking demonstrations — such as Vivien Leigh's about a theatre closure — happened before television.

In any case the Commons could have, as does the Lords, an undertaking from the television authorities not to transmit anything other than proceedings. In my opinion (but only an opinion) it would not encourage more rowdiness or disorder. Nor would it end such behaviour. But the cameras might make some MPs think carefully before indulging in some of the behaviour which Mr Speaker has recently condemned.

As to anxieties that the proceedings would be trivialized, or sensationalized, the House could insist that no channel could carry only dramatic snippets; it must also transmit a regular version of *Today in Parliament*, of reasonable length, at a reasonable time.

My letter to *The Times* in 1959 concluded: "Parliament should not be as blind and stubborn as it was in its unhappy struggle with the press." That struggle is described in Sir Thomas Erskine May's *Constitutional History of England: No Circumstances in the history of our country — not even parliamentary reform — has done more for freedom and good government than the unfettered liberty of reporting."*

Television is not the press. But in the 20th century, it is to parliamentary democracy what the press was in the 19th century. In the wise words of an old Tory back-bencher: "Parliament must work with the tools of the age, or it will sculpt no monuments for the future."

Sir Robin Day, the presenter of *Question Time* on BBC1, is here expressing his personal opinion.

Bernard Levin

Remembering a stage genius

Last Saturday was January 30, and "On This Day" (see opposite page) selected a passage from the same date in 1928: a review of a performance in the Aeolian Hall by Ruth Draper. I am aware that, as they read those last words, two-thirds of my readers wavered in their normally iron-clad resolve to continue; I am consoled by my certainty that the rest instantly took the phone off the hook.

Ruth Draper died in 1956, at the age of 72. Either you know what I am talking about or you don't; if you don't, it is no use your seeking tangible evidence of what she was and did. Great musicians and actors have had their works recorded or filmed for many decades now, and writers have left their books, painters their canvases, inventors their inventions, philosophers their influence. But "some there be, which have no memorial: Who are perished as though they had not been born."

Ruth Draper's texts have been collected and edited; there are a few useless scraps of film of her, but the magic of her genius can never be reconstructed for those who did not see her, and will never be forgotten, until they die, by those who did. I am one of that fortunate second category, who by now can number few, if any, members under the age of 50. I saw her at least a dozen times, and I shall now reminisce about her; and, *wer's nie gekonnt, der stehle weinend sich aus diesem Bund*.

Ruth Draper was an American *dieu* — a silly and almost meaningless word, but one which we are stuck with, since there is none better. She took a stage, and on it performed sketches (another miserably inadequate word) and monologues of her own devising. (Henry James wrote a playlet for her, though she never performed it.) She always portrayed all the characters herself, using no scenery other than black curtains, hardly any props except — in one item — a wooden chair (I'll come to the chair in a moment), no changes of costume (I'll also come to the triple use of a shawl



in another), no noises off and no special lighting. Her portrayals of the various roles in a multi-character sketch were so meticulously differentiated — by her voice, by the very slightest change of physical stance, by an almost imperceptible gesture — that it had a truly hallucinatory effect: there was only one woman on the stage, but we were convinced, despite the evidence of our eyes, that there were two or more. Much more frightening — I do assure you that that word is not too strong — was her performance in the sketches in which she portrayed only one character, understood to be surrounded by a group of silent ones; before the curtain came down, real hallucination had set in, and we could see on the stage a crowd of people who were not there.

Let us take *Three Women* and Mr Clifford. Mr Clifford is a businessman, and the three women in his life are his wife, his mistress and his secretary. I can see "them" now: the wife — old,

crabbed, tight-mouthed, the secretary — smooth, convincing, loyal, the girlfriend — vital, sexy, comforting. Ruth Draper not only conjured all three into three-dimensional, separate life — she threw in the limousine that Mr Clifford and his wife travelled in; the imaginary motor car was as real as the three women.

Another three-hander — I have forgotten its title — took the form of a hearing before a family court. She was three generations: grandmother, mother, young girl. The girl wants to go west and live her own life, but that would mean that the mother and grandmother would have to go into a home. Each addresses the court, and that's where the shawl came in. A flick and it was over the old lady's head; a twitch, and it was round the mother's shoulders; a ripple, and the girl was playing with it behind her back. With nano-second timing the voice changed with the shawl,

but the point is that all three characters had their backs to the audience; only the invisible judge faced us from his bench.

Anyone who saw her will remember the item called *Showing the Garden*. I believe she included it in every performance. She was taking a visitor round, and the joke was that everything she was proudest of had either finished last week or would not be ready till next week: there were some roses, as I recall, the "Mrs Huntley Buncombs", which were always either late or early. To this day I cannot enter a florist's without a vague urge to demand a dozen Mrs Huntley Buncombs.

Reading the "On This Day" notice of that 1928 performance, I was struck by the account of one particular item, in which a young Frenchwoman, baby boy in arms, seeks her husband among the returning soldiers, and, on learning that he will never return, holds her baby high and cries "Vive la France!"

Now the returning soldiers of that item were returning, of course, from the Great War; well, I saw her, when I was a student, immediately after World War Two, and she had plainly not forgotten the old sketch and its effect. The new one portrayed a woman on a beach in Occupied France; her husband is about to slip away, across the Channel, to join the Free French in Britain. Her husband's aged mother, realizing she will not live to see her son again, is reluctant to let him go; the wife's pride flashes forth (the whole sketch was done in French, with no concessions to the audience) in scorn: "*Vive-tu que mes enfants soient des Boches?*" The boat pushes off; wife and mother embrace in grief; then, first faintly, then louder, we hear (but we didn't hear) the roar of aircraft. "*Ce sont des Anglais!*" she cries, "*c'est la Raf, la Raf, Des bombardiers volant vers l'est!*" Then, radiant, she turns her face

to the sky and shouts: "*Allez-y, mes gars, allez-y! Bonne chance!*" And down came the curtain, with the same cry from an earlier war, "*Vive la France!*" There were certainly no dry eyes in the house at that point, and I found my own distinctly damp just now, as, more than 40 years on, I remembered the words and Ruth Draper speaking them.

The disease, at any rate in the old sense, has almost died out. I never found Beatrice Lillie funny, not even the double-damask dinner-napkins, and Cornelia Otis Skinner was dreadful. There was our beloved Joyce Grenfell, of course, and I still miss her, but she did not have the sense of Draper; nobody did. But if you never saw her, I think you will have realized why I said it is useless to try to conjure her up, and understand her art and its perfection.

I suppose, then, that I owe an apology to the two-thirds of my readers who could not have seen Ruth Draper, for tantalizing them with what they missed. I comfort myself with the knowledge that I have made happy the other third, who did see her, and have been reminded, by my memories, of their own.

Ah, yes, I have omitted something that I promised you; the chair. It was a rocking-chair, and she used it in a sketch called *On a porch in Maine*. She was an old lady, looking back on her youth and her life; the monologue lasted some 10 minutes, and throughout it she rocked, in an absolutely even rhythm, back and forth, back and forth, the chair never deviating an inch from the arc it described in her rocking. And what was so special about that? Well, what was so special about Ruth Draper? The answer to both questions is: it wasn't a rocking-chair. She used a perfectly ordinary kitchen chair, and rocked it on its back legs, to and fro, to and fro, throughout the sketch. You remember? No, not you; you.

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Commentary • RONALD BUTT

Market fallibility

By every objective test, public, including Conservative, opinion is overwhelmingly critical of the Government's approach to the National Health Service. It understands that we cannot continue with the present system of open-ended commitment to fund health care exclusively out of general taxation. But it is not willing for the present consequences of underfunding to continue until the system can be reformed in the next Parliament.

The public's criteria for a new system are, I think, pretty clear. But one of these is challenged by Lord Harris of High Cross in a new pamphlet, *Beyond the Welfare State*. Ralph Harris is a humane man whose doctrines in general benefit mankind, but in this matter he is mistaken.

Socialists feel romantic about the state, which they believe can ensure that all is well by controlling and allocating everything that matters. They dislike the truth that the agents of the state are as corruptible by power and self-interest as any other individuals. The market economists have a more rational creed which stresses the damage done to individual effort by state power and the less efficient provision by state monopolies without market discipline. Yet they too sometimes become romantic about their theory, seeing the market as a pure and beneficent cure-all. But the human mind is finite and even the best of theories is self-defeating if pursued too relentlessly.

Starting from the proposition that public as well as private wealth arises from each man's urge to better his own condition, Lord Harris quotes Adam Smith's wise words: "It is not from the benevolence of the

butcher, the brewer or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest." But then the romantic sets in.

Acknowledging that individuals and families unable to take care of themselves for reasons beyond their control need the help of the state, he declares: "Once policy departs from concentrating state help on the declining minority in *absolute need* (my italics) the categories of prospective beneficiaries multiply and 'need' assumes an elastic dimension in the name of 'relative poverty'." His solution is state finance to help those poor who are in "absolute need", and a minimum insurance requirement for everyone, regardless of relative need.

Absolute need may be a sensible measure for benefits, particularly in cash, that relate directly to poverty. But for health and education, relative need is an essential criterion. With schools, for instance, provision has to be made not only for the children of the absolutely poor but also those of the relatively poor according to the child's need. That was what the old grammar schools were about. There are many above the poverty level who could still not afford, even under a voucher system, to top up their children's education appropriately.

With health care, there should be more private hospitals and a mixed state and private insurance system. Those who can and wish to buy insurance provision enabling them to have a private room or quicker treatment when it is most convenient to them for non-urgent conditions, should be able to do so. But a system which provided a basic

scheme of state finance for the poor and required only a "minimum standard" of health insurance for everyone, regardless of relative poverty, would run the risk of providing a "minimum standard" (that is, less good) treatment for those people without long queues.

Between the "absolute poor" and the well-off there are many grades of relative wealth and the community must take account of them. A person's remuneration and consequent ability to pay often has nothing to do with his or her contribution to society and it would be ethically unacceptable to run a system which, risked giving significantly worse care to a schoolteacher or a nurse than to a money market dealer or a well-paid man in management.

Whatever replaces the present system must also have an insurance and a redistributive element which takes account of income. Ralph Harris thinks that teachers, nurses and doctors find it "easier to feather their nests" because they are faced with captive taxpayers instead of paying customers who can go elsewhere. Nest-feathering is an odd charge to bring in the present state of the NHS, and before we worship the market blindly we must remember that when it was supreme the lot of the poor was not blissful.

Like every other human idea the market is fallible and the ills of socialism came into existence only because the market, when totally free, was abused. Capitalists and commissars alike are selfish. In discussing the present crisis of provision, funding and management for the welfare state we must not forget why, with all its shortcomings, it had to be invented.

SCIENCE REPORT

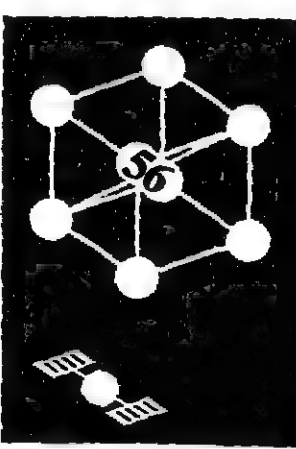
Iron in the fire

When a star dies by exploding as a supernova, so much energy is released that for a few days it outshines all other 10,000 million stars in the galaxy. Now the latest observations of last year's supernova reported in today's issue of *Nature*, confirm that what keeps the embers glowing for months after the outburst is radioactivity — a quantity of hot, radioactive cobalt equal nearly to the mass of the Sun.

Supernova 1987A occurred on February 24, 1987, in the Large Magellanic Cloud, an irregular aggregation of stars not far from the Milky Way. The star that blew up was about 15 times bigger than the Sun, and in a precarious state of old age. With most of its nuclear fuel exhausted, its interior was being crushed by the force of its own gravity.

For millions of years nuclear fusion reactions within a star run steadily, and the energy released fights its way to the surface, keeping the star hot and preventing it from collapsing under its own weight. But a star's fuel supply is not inexhaustible. Hydrogen atoms — protons — fuse in the hot, dense interior to form helium atoms — two protons and two neutrons — releasing energy in the process. Helium atoms fuse to form heavier elements, such as carbon, oxygen and neon, but the fusion is harder to accomplish, and releases less energy.

Slowly, gravity gains the upper hand. As hydrogen and helium run low, the star's



Richard Leadhead

interior begins to run hotter, manufacturing heavier elements but producing less energy. An average star, such as the Sun, just fizzles, but a big star goes out literally with a bang. When its innermost regions get hot and dense enough, whatever fuel remains is consumed in a colossal thermonuclear explosion, blowing the outer layers into space at enormous speed.

This outburst turns a dim and undistinguished star into a beacon visible across millions of light years. Astronomers, observing supernovas in distant galaxies, discovered that the brightness of the remnant decreases according to a simple law: every 78 days, the intensity of light falls by one half. This caught the attention of nuclear physicists, who knew that radioactive cobalt-56, an atomic element consisting of 27 protons and 29

neutrons, decays at exactly the same rate.

With the help of computers, astronomers and physicists showed that in the final milliseconds of a star's life, the explosion converts almost all the available nuclear fuel into nickel-56.

But nickel-56 is radioactive, and decays quickly to cobalt-56, which decays with a half-life of 78 days to iron-56. As life of 78 days, the radioactive cobalt equal nearly to the mass of the Sun.

Today's *Nature* contains the first direct evidence that this theory is correct. A group from the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington DC recounts the detection, by an instrument on a NASA satellite, of gamma-rays (like X-rays but with more energy) from Supernova 1987A. These rays have a characteristic energy which identifies them as coming directly from the decay of cobalt-56 to iron-56. Striking the shell of expanding material thrown off by the explosion, and heating it up, they are the power behind the visible supernova remnant.

Astrophysicists were sure already that their computer calculations had identified the supernova remnant's energy source. But the detection of gamma-rays is the last piece of the jigsaw, and immensely satisfying to the scientists who predicted them decades ago.

DAVID LINDLEY

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FAREWELL TO WHITEHALL

Why, asks the Prime Minister's adviser, Sir Robin Ibbes, should the Inland Revenue not pay its highly trained inspectors enough to stop them flowing ever faster to the private sector? Why should the top managers in the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre in Swansea not be able to substitute computers for clerks, or vice versa, without having to check every decision with the Department of Transport in London?

Why should the Permanent Secretary at the Welsh Office, who manages only comparatively few officials, be paid the same as the man, or woman, responsible for delivering £25 billion or more in social security benefits and employing an army of officials to do so? Why, indeed, should Whitehall on its present scale exist at all? Why cannot it follow Fleet Street, stop being a place of collective activity, and start a new career as a mere collective noun?

Not surprisingly, all such uncomfortable questions contained in Sir Robin Ibbes's report on government reorganization have been slow to see the light of day. In recent months they have languished in the deepest inter-departmental limbo.

Now it appears that the Prime Minister has rescued them. The report will shortly be considered — possibly today — by the Cabinet. It deserves the closest attention.

From the hints that have emerged so far it is certainly the most iconoclastic document on the Civil Service since the Fulton Report in the 1960s. And while the fate of Fulton is a cautionary tale for all would-be reformers, this report will not be so easily set aside.

The central idea behind Sir Robin Ibbes's view of Whitehall is that, provided Civil Service managers are set tight financial targets and their performances are subject to stringent review, they should be free of the Treasury rules and trade union restraints which determine how much they pay their secretaries and where they set up their main-frame computers. He recognizes that the bulk of Civil Service work is about management, requiring trained professionals rather than traditional policy advisers.

This view of Whitehall's future alone carries forward the momentum of the Financial Management Initiative by which the Prime Minister has set such store. But it is more than a blueprint for Whitehall reform. It fore-shadows major changes in the way the State impacts on the citizen. It is unlikely that all the difficulties in its way will have been foreseen. But the Cabinet has no excuse for delaying the consideration of its ideas, and assessing how their departments might use them.

There ought to be public discussion too. The

report, *The Next Steps*, has not had an easy passage. Voices have been raised against it, especially from within the Treasury. Knowing little of the Treasury's argument, the public may be tempted to rely on an old characterization of that department as a prophet of the status quo, an opponent of any reform that would reduce its power. Equally, there are clear problems of public expenditure control — which must be answered by reformers.

Ibbes certainly flies with the contemporary currents, with performance-related pay, with the emphasis on accountable and discretionary management which works well in the private sector. The purpose is to free the managers of the departments with big managerial operations (including the Home Office with its prisons and immigration-processing work) from second-guessing by Treasury officials. Its logic is powerful.

But the misgivings about too rapid a descent down this path should be heard, and made public. It is certainly a threat to the traditional ways of Whitehall; many more fathers will be ruffled than those of the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury and his well-schooled mandarinate. Sir Robin raises serious questions about the future of the unitary Civil Service which has overseen the nation's governance since the mid-nineteenth century.

The corporate Civil Service of the welfare state must bear its share of responsibility for mistakes in macro-economic management and for protecting habits of administration which were wasteful and inefficient. It is important, however, that its virtues of loyalty and executive potency be not lightly dismissed.

Questions are raised, for example, about appointment to senior offices. In a devolved structure, who is to appoint the permanent secretary of the Department of Energy or the chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, and who is to ensure that he or she share some agreed view of public service?

Sir Robin Ibbes seems to have been at his least convincing when he has considered the future of the Civil Servants who do not specialise in management but in the provision of imaginative policy advice to ministers. How is their value assessed in the new world where the market rate rules?

This will be no overnight reform. His recommendations will take many years to put into effect. None the less, the sooner they are brought before the public, and the opposition politicians who too must have a view about them, the sooner the expressions of divergent interest, so audible within Whitehall in recent months, can be paraded and assessed.

DRUG RUNNERS

The committee of inquiry appointed yesterday by the Amateur Athletic Association has a responsibility to sport that far exceeds merely the affairs of British athletics and the specific allegations made in *The Times* in December.

The terms of reference given to the committee show an awareness by the AAA of this responsibility. The wider allegations of drug abuse in sport must not be side-stepped. Although athletics is the sport specifically under scrutiny, the findings of the inquiry have a chance to influence the attitude of the rest of British sport towards an abuse which now threatens its credibility.

Mr Peter Coni, Mr Gilbert Kelland and Mr Dan Davies have to be open-minded. But they also must be prepared to reach some harsh conclusions about the conduct of sports administration, including the board which appointed them and which claimed last year that its testing procedures had shown British athletics as an almost "clean" sport.

A key allegation, and it does not come just from athletics, is that some sports officials, out of commercial interests, are party to the avoidance of drug-testing by competitors. This is far worse than any individual competitor seeking to achieve advantage by the use of drugs.

The number of accusations of drug abuse is growing. Before the allegations in *The Times*, Mr Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, and Mr Sebastian Coe, the double Olympic champion and Vice-Chairman of the Sports Council, had produced a report which revealed — albeit from the non-attributable evidence of

athletes — that deals were struck to allow visiting athletes to be excused drug-testing.

Since our reports Mr Martin Givran, the British hammer-throwing record-holder, has explained how he and his team-mates on overseas matches hired a car to tour chemists' shops to buy up stocks of drugs. Mr Susan Crehan, a British international runner, has told of her surprise and sadness at the open talk of drugs at the world championships last summer.

Others, wise in the ways of athletics, such as Mr Ron Pickering, the commentator, Mr Charles Taylor, a leading coach, and Mr Daley Thompson and Mr Carl Lewis, the Olympic champions, have voiced their strong suspicions that all is not as well as the AAA (and the international governing body) would have us believe. Mr Coni and his colleagues may also be interested in the international competitors who have been permitted to circumvent the rules and the curious advance warning given to athletes of so-called random testing.

The inquiry should not be nervous of making the strongest recommendations it thinks necessary. In particular it must ask itself if testing for drugs would not be better handed to a body wholly independent of the sport's administration. It needs to be sure that the rules which apply to athletes in local leagues' matches will be applied equally to the international heroes and heroines.

The temptation to take drugs must be minimized. The price of taking drugs must be raised. The blind eye can be turned no longer.

TRAINING FOR TWO WHEELS

Motor cyclists make up only 2 per cent of road traffic, but each year they are involved in more than 50,000 accidents which result in injury, nearly a quarter of all road casualties. When the Government introduces the new safety measures for motor cyclists that were indicated today, the Transport Minister, Mr Peter Bottomley, will find that these figures do most of his arguing for him.

It is a simple fact that while most minor collisions between four-wheeled vehicles do not lead to injury, most minor collisions with two-wheeled vehicles do. In a car or lorry accident, drivers and passengers are much less likely to be thrown out at speed on to the road. A motorist inside a car has some protection at least against injury. In a motor cycle accident separation from the vehicle is virtually inevitable.

But there are psychological factors too that make motor cycling dangerous. Most motor cyclists are young men, and they are attracted to this form of transport by the combination of speed, freedom, power, manoeuvrability, and anticipation of danger. Thus, for example, improving the efficiency of a motor cycle's brakes and the road-holding of its tyres may reduce neither the chance of an accident nor the likely severity of it, if the rider responds by driving so as to adjust the level of risk to what it was before.

The Government has chosen to take steps to raise the level of motor cyclists' skill by insisting on more rigorous testing and training.

This is open to the objection that motor cycle accidents are not always caused by lack of skill, but sometimes by this deliberate risk-taking. The new measures ought to make a significant difference, none the less. Inexperienced motor cyclists are unlikely to be able even to calculate their risks correctly. The object of the exercise is always the triumph of skill over disaster. There is no kudos in being killed.

The most important of the proposed changes is that in future new motor cyclists will be required to undertake a whole day's training off the road before they are allowed to venture on to it. There will be a test, therefore, even before a provisional licence is issued, as well as one prior to the issuing of a full licence.

There are other current ideas for improving motor cycle safety which Mr Bottomley would do well to introduce, in addition to his reforms of the motor cycle driving test system. Compulsory dipped headlights in daylight would make motor cyclists more visible to other motorists, for instance. The case for requiring strengthened and padded leg-protectors on the bike itself, to afford more leg protection in a glancing collision, is also strong.

All these improvements should give young motor cyclists a more realistic sense of the dangers inherent in their chosen mode of transport. But danger can be an addictive drug. In the long run, if the Government is really determined to cut this category of road accident by any significant amount, there may be no alternative to raising the age limit.

Reconciling Middle East differences

From the General Secretary of the Church Missionary Society

Sir, In Jerusalem last week the heads of the Christian communities made their first-ever joint public statement. It said that, dismissed by "the painful events" in the West Bank and Gaza, they take their stand "with truth and justice" for all, and call for their people to pray and work for peace, and support those who suffer.

Sunday, January 31, was set apart for " fervent prayer that justice and peace may be realised in our land".

We believe that in Britain, the churches particularly, and surely all people of goodwill, need to listen carefully to these Christian leaders. Our society has long-standing relationships with the Christian communities in the Middle East, especially the Episcopal (Anglican) Church. For more than 100 years we have shared their struggles and achievements.

In a divided situation the easy course is to shout the slogans of one extreme or the other. Reconcilers, however, are people of tough determination. We need to insist that neither one community nor the other will be pushed out of our hearing range.

The West is rightly very conscious of the suffering of the Jews through the ages. Recent events have increased public awareness of the suffering of the Palestinians. In the search for a just settlement of the conflict, the world's churches have been deeply involved in the ministry of reconciliation and relief with the Palestinian people since 1948.

We appeal to all Christians to pray with their brothers and sisters in Israel and the occupied territories for peace and justice in their land. There is also a need for us all to continue in that determined, careful listening without which there can be no reconciliation.

Yours etc,
HARRY MOORE,
General Secretary,
Church Missionary Society,
157 Waterloo Road, SE1,
February 1.

From Sir John Wilton
Sir, Your leading article of January 30 on Israel's tactics in the West Bank and Gaza contains an astounding parallel. Britain, the United States and France did not invade Germany in 1945 with the intention of planting settlements of their own people.

The problems of administering the territory of a defeated nation for a temporary period pending

the signing of a peace treaty are real and difficult enough. If the task is complicated by the installation of permanent settlements and claims for the incorporation of territory, it is hardly surprising if a resistance movement develops amongst the inhabitants of the occupied areas.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WILTON,
Legassic House,
69 Fore Street,
Plymouth St Maurice,
Plymouth, Devon,
January 30.

From Mr Henry Tock
Sir, You are quite right that Israel should be judged by the standards of Western democracies. In the light of the present unrest Muslim religious leaders may well feel that the riots may succeed with an international conference in the same way as the 1936 riots succeeded with the Mandatory Government. As far as 3½ million Israelis are concerned this option would mean suicide.

Israel should not be "seen as part of Western oppression of the Third World". The oil-rich Arab states are not part of the Third World. The tragedy is that although parts of the Old Testament, which is Jewish, form the basis of Christian and Muslim religions, Western democracies always ready to condemn Israel make no attempt to persuade Muslim countries to behave in the way Christian countries and Israel are expected to behave.

Yours faithfully,
H. TOCK,
Candida,
49 Hawkehead Lane,
North Mymms,
Hatchfield, Hertfordshire.

From Mr David Brook
Sir, Many people forget or refuse to accept the indisputable truth of the tragedy of Palestine, that the subjugated "enemy" of Israel lived in that country for as long as any of the indigenous races there.

It is their country as much as any others, yet after 20 years of oppression and misery you support the hitting and tear-gassing of "dangerous youths" of the sort we have seen recently in some of the most brutal scenes ever reported by television which, if the British Army were ever seen to respond to stone-throwing in Northern Ireland in the same way, would cause world-wide uproar.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BROOK,
Birds Hill,
Great Bealings,
Woodbridge, Suffolk.

'No-fault' divorce

From Mr A. C. Guthrie

Sir, We learn without surprise that the House of Lords has now refused Mr Robert Atkinson, of West Hartlepool, leave to appeal against a Court of Appeal decision (Law Report, August 12, 1987) refusing to interfere with an order requiring him to pay £4,500 a year to his former wife, despite the fact that she was living with another man.

We believe that the blame for this situation must be laid squarely at the door of the "no-fault maintenance" law that was foisted upon Parliament and the public in the early seventies and, notwithstanding the 1984 legislation, continues to govern divorce today.

The law having in effect given wives on divorce a metaphorical pat on the back with maintenance for life, on the basis that extra-marital relations during marriage

were irrelevant, it is clearly not possible for any court bound by that law to say that that maintenance should be taken away again because they then indulge in the same sort of activities after divorce.

The legal establishment treats "no-fault" divorce as if it has to include "no-fault" maintenance. They say that the courts cannot make lengthy enquiries into blame.

Very well, but if blame cannot be shown, there can be no justification for ordering either of two parties who are now legal strangers and not liable to maintain one another to support the other after their marriage has ended.

Yours truly,
A. C. GUTHRIE (Chairman,
National Council Campaign for Justice in Divorce),
Orchard House, Iwerne Minster,
Blandford Forum, Dorset,
January 25.

Short in the tooth?

From Mr Henry Guly

Sir, When I was a child and one of my teeth came out I would leave it under my pillow and the fairies would take it, leaving a sixpence in its place.

With decalcification and infection my own children get 20p for a tooth but I am told that fairies visiting one of my children's friends in a nearby town leave £1. Not only does this seem to be inflationary in the extreme but the fairies who visit our village have picked up a reputation for being mean.

Is there any way of knowing the value of a tooth and is there any way of ensuring that fairies stick to this figure rather than operate local price deals which cause such problems?

Yours faithfully,
HENRY GULY,
The Strawberry,
Bedford Road,
Hornbridge,
Nr Yelverton, Devon,
January 28.

Tropical crops

From Mr Michael Hands

Sir, Letters in *The Times* have reported on the effects of the destruction of tropical forests in the Amazon basin (August 31, 1987) the Upper Nile catchment area (November 10, 14, 26, 1987) and Sarawak (January 5 and 19). These reports touch on a potentially vast problem.

Although commercial logging is a major cause of such destruction, the conversion of the accumulated fertility of forest soil to short-lived cropping benefits appears poised to devastate whole regions of the tropics, where human populations have probably never been so high. Traditional agriculture, of which extensive slash-and-burn is one of the commonest examples, may simply be overwhelmed in these regions by human numbers and shortened fallow periods.

One possible response may lie in sustained cropping between

rows of specially planted coppicing trees or shrubs established during the rainy season. Foliage from these trees is pruned frequently during crop growth and laid among the crop to provide essential protection and nutrient mulch for the soil. The few trials so far of this and similar systems have appeared highly successful, although we do not yet fully understand their limitations.

An underfed farmer, struggling to support a family, is unlikely to readily devote effort to cultivating foliage which he cannot eat. His subsistence may need to be underwritten for a time by Western aid, perhaps using grain surpluses, while the agroforestry system and any necessary terracing is established. Massive and determined Western effort, wrought with volunteer help, could begin to reverse the tide of destruction.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HANDS,
Wolfson College, Cambridge.

Parents' right to child access

From Mr David R. Ellis

Sir, Your report (January 26) a decision of the High Court in Birmingham, in which it was held that a mentally-handicapped couple were not capable of bringing up their baby and ordering that the parents should be allowed "one farewell access visit", when a photograph could be taken, prior to surrendering their child to the permanent custody of foster parents.

This decision surely raises moral issues of the utmost complexity in an age when the mentally-handicapped are encouraged to live as normal a life as possible within our society.

The hearing having been in chambers, one does not know the

nature or cogency of the evidence before the judge and cannot therefore criticise the decision in the particular case. However, it appears from your report that the couple in question were married and it was only because they were mentally-handicapped that they were judged not capable of giving proper care to the child, "even with considerable support 24 hours a day, seven days a week".

If they were married, then the marriage was presumably sanctioned by either Church or State, or both. Procreation being the primary purpose of marriage, surely it is incumbent upon the Church or State which sanctions such a marriage to provide not just considerable support for the couple in bringing up their children, but such degree of support that would enable a judge of the Family Division to be satisfied that it was in the interests of the child to remain with its natural parents.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID R. ELLIS,
1 Larkhall Rise, SW4.

Reform of NHS

From Mr Michael Fraser

Sir, There is a serious flaw in the Government's plan to encourage the use of the private sector to relieve pressure on the National Health Service. Almost all the doctors working in private hospitals (mostly surgeons and anaesthetists) do so, and usually up to full capacity in their free time after, in the words of their NHS contract, "devoting substantially the whole of their professional time to their duties in the NHS".

If these doctors are to do more work privately, even work contracted out by the NHS, this can only be done by doing less work in the NHS, thus defeating the purpose of the idea.

The only exception is in the London teaching hospitals, where there is a surplus of beds and doctors ripe for private exploitation, with the net result that more money will come into these prosperous centres, reversing the RAWP (resource allocation working party) plan to direct resources away from London into the poorer peripheral health districts.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL FRASER,
Fawkhams Manor Clinic,
Manor Lane,
Fawkhams,
Kent,
January 26.

Cost of records

From Mr Dick H. Pantlin

Sir, The example given by Professor Cameron Watt (January 25) on the high cost of obtaining copies of documents at the Public Record Office is almost acceptable when compared with the system in operation in the Greater London Record Office.

In that office many records are on microfilm, yet it does not possess equipment readily available elsewhere which enables a customer, without help from the staff (except to obtain payment and keep the machine equipped with paper), to obtain a photocopy from a microfilm. The only way that this copy can be obtained in that office is for the original document to be photographed (not photocopied) afresh at considerable cost and a week's delay.

It should not be difficult for a supplier of this equipment to provide coin-operated machines holding a larger stock of paper than is usual. In this way the system would soon make a profit.

In these offices a greater degree of commercial sense and awareness of the needs of customers is desirable.

Yours faithfully,
DICK PANTLIN,
11 Avenue de Mercure,
1180 Brussels,
Belgium,
January 25.

Special advisers

From the Director-General of the Royal Institute of Public Administration

Sir, Virginia Bottomley suggests (Diary, January 29) that the special adviser will have arrived when Sir Nicholas Henderson revises *The Private Office* to include the role.

He does already refer to them. He claims that although it is not easy to introduce them into the FCO, "the normal Foreign Office tendency will be to embrace newcomers rather than to reject them, a bear-hug that may nevertheless be suffocating for the newcomer".

How far such a response is typical in Whitehall, and how far special advisers can be considered to have arrived, is the subject of a research project conducted by our institute. We hope to report later this year on whether all the "weasels" (Sir Humphrey Appleby's term) were bear-hugged.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM FLOWDEN,
Director-General,
Royal Institute of Public Administration,
3 Birdcage Walk, SW1,
January 29.

Woolly thinking?

From Mrs D. E. Foxley

Sir, Alan Coren asks (Diary, January 27) what Germans call their shepherds. They call them shepherds, of course. It is who have caused the confusion by lazily abbreviating their translation of the perfectly sensible term *Schäferhund* — shepherd-dog.

Yours faithfully,
JANET FOXLEY,
1 Mafeking Road,
Wraybury,
Staines, Middlesex,
January 28.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 4 1899

The editor had a long-standing agreement with Rudyard Kipling to publish any poems Kipling cared to send him. The first of these, "The Native-Born", appeared in 1895 — "a really beautiful poem", as Moberly Bell, the managing director, wrote to him. Altogether some 20 such pieces appeared.

THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.

AN ADDRESS TO THE UNITED STATES.

Take up the White Man's burden —
Send forth the best ye breed —
Go, bind your sons to exile
To serve your captives' need;
To wait, in heavy harness,
On fluttered folk and wild —
Your new-caught, sullen
peoples.

Half devil and half child.
Take up the White Man's burden —

In patience to abide,
To veil the threat of terror
And check the show of pride;
By open speech and simple,
An hundred times made plain,
To seek another's gain.

Take up the White Man's burden —
The savage wars of peace —
Fill full the mouths of famine,
And bid the sickness cease;
And when your goal is nearest
(The end of others sought)
Watch sloth and heathen folly
Bring all your hope to nought!

Take up the White Man's burden —

No iron rule of kings,
But toil of heart and sweeper —
The tale of common things.
The ports ye shall not enter,
The roads ye shall not tread,
Go, make them with your living
And mark them with your dead!

Take up the White Man's burden —
And reap his old reward —
The blame of those ye better —
The hate of those ye guard —
The cry of hosts ye humour
(Ah, slowly!) towards the light —

"Why brought ye us from bondage,
Our loved Egyptian night?"

Take up the White Man's burden —
Ye dare not stoop to less —
Nor call too loud on Freedom
To cloke your weariness,
By all ye will or whisper,
By all ye leave or do,
The silent, sullen peoples
Shall weigh your God and you.

Take up the White Man's burden —
Have done with childish days —
The lightly-proffered laurel,
The easy ungrudging praise:
Come now, to search your
manhood

Through all the thankless years,
Cold, edged with dead-brought
wisdom.

The judgement of your peers.
RUDYARD KIPLING.
(Copyright, 1899, in U.S.A., by
Rudyard Kipling in McClure's
Magazine. All rights reserved.)

THE ARTS

On the heavy metal beat

Out of its time

The extraordinary decision to schedule *Women Writers* (Thames) for 11.30am on Wednesdays means that few but the unemployed and the aspirant literary housewife will be able to catch it live. The gung-ho heroines of Barbara Taylor Bradford, yesterday's series-opener, would presumably be too busy sharpening their elbows in the boardroom. But then they, least of all, would need to be reminded of their creator's dreary Thatcherite precepts. As Emma Hartie observed in *A Woman of Substance*, "money makes you safe".

In the flesh, the author of this and similar fantasies turned out to be a substantial figure at pains to remind her mousey interviewer that, having married money, she could afford the fine things of life before her phenomenal literary success. As to the works themselves: "I don't write formula fiction. I write long books that are very layered."

Permed, tinted and — well — very layered, a cochleod of

TELEVISION

coeval hairstyles was shown clucking over the humble artisan's dwelling in Armleigh whence Mrs Bradford stemmed. "She hasn't altered," swore a sometime colleague, with all the confidence of an acquaintance hundreds of miles and millions of pounds distant. "She's liberated us."

The closing sequence showed the great liberator and her husband absorbing cocktails with feisty little Jenny Seagrave (the Emma Hartie of Channel 4's mini-series) while a personage in evening dress crowned "We're in the Money". Role models, this way please.

A glance through ITV's schedules revealed *Singles* (YTV), a limp sit-com in which two unattached women kept meeting two ditto men in a tarted-up pub. Later, in the Grill Room, Male's recipe for amatory success — avocado and red meat — brought equally anemic results.

None of this would be remarkable were it not for the casting of Roger Rees as the egregious Male. With a less distastefully circumscribed script, his characterization of this wolf in Harry Fenton clothing might well have teeth.

Martin Cropper

CINEMA

RoboCop (18)
Leicester Square Theatre,
Odeon Marble Arch

White Mischief (18)
Curzon West End

Dead of Winter (15)
Cannons Panton Street,
Fulham Road

Terminus (15)
Cannon Tottenham Court
Road

The near future, as shown in *RoboCop*, is much as you might expect. South Africa is on the verge of launching a nuclear attack; American troops have gone in to crush left-wing insurgents in Mexico; a malfunction of the US Peace Satellite has devastated Santa Barbara, killing two former Presidents; the incumbent President is in orbit; the city streets are overrun with muggers and inanimate garbage.

The TV newscasters report these catastrophes with the same unaltered cheery smiles, between commercials for instant heart transplants and a game called *Nukem*, which brings all the excitement of nuclear war into your own home.

Privatization has run mad. The giant Omni-Consumer Products corporation operates arms manufacture, hospitals, prisons and law enforcement, for private profit. *RoboCop* is the corporation's latest weapon in the fight against crime: a fully armoured, missile-proof robot, fashioned out of the salvaged remnants of Officer Murphy (Peter Weller, a good street cop blasted to bits by hoodlums. Turning the tables of the usual monster film, *RoboCop* rebels against its creators only in the cause of justice, law and humanity.

The script by Edward Neumeier and Michael Miner wittily plays with Hollywood stereotypes — monster films, from *Frankenstein* and *King Kong*; cop films (Murphy's buddy is a killer female officer), revenge films of the *Death Wish* school — without compromising its own brisk, dynamic narrative.

Within the forms of a comic strip adventure, there are keen asides: the men's urinals as the epicentre of corporate politics; the inevitable conclusion that if crime prevention is answerable to the capitalist power-centre, so is crime itself. There are lighter touches of comedy, too: *RoboCop*'s community PR visit to an infant school, his polite insistence on

reading over the arrestee's rights, and his solicitous referral of a rape victim to a therapy centre.

What we have in *RoboCop* is a meeting of European sophistication and Hollywood hi-tech. The director, Paul Verhoeven, is Dutch, and established his career on attention-grabbing combinations of violence and ambivalent sexuality, *Turkish Delight* and *Spetters*. He combined similar qualities in his bid for the big-time, a dreadful, English-language medieval epic, *Flash and Blood*. The resources provided by Hollywood have given him assurance and an unforeseen line in humour.

The wit extends to the special effects creations. *RoboCop*, a streamlined and computerized Frankenstein monster, has the heavy-footed swagger and tricky gun-play of a Western hero. Only a pretty, pouty mouth hints at the vestiges of humanity which in the end triumph over vicious science fiction technology. A rival breed of robot (an "enforcement droid") recalls every frog-like creeping comic strip monster — a menacing, cannon-blasting creature that bawls like a baby when it tumbles helplessly down stairs.

The purely human figures are rather less sophisticated in characterization, though Dan O'Herlihy is admirable as the paternalist company president, tut-tutting disappointment at staff performance when a fellow director is blasted to bloody fragments on the boardroom carpet by a robot malfunction. *RoboCop* is comic strip for grown-ups as well as kids — a factor reflected in its runaway box office success in the United States in the past half year.



Greta Scacchi: a convincing gold-digger in Michael Radford's *White Mischief*

Based on James Fox's book, *White Mischief* reconstructs a real-life crime that occurred in Kenya's British colony in 1941. Josslyn Hay, Earl of Erroll (1901-1941), a philandering aristocrat who was having an affair with a married woman, Lady Diana Broughton (1913-1987), was murdered. The lady's much older husband, Sir "Jock" Broughton (1883-1942), was charged, tried and acquitted.

The mystery was never solved. In their film script, however, Michael Radford and Jonathan Gems offer there own hypothesis, and considerably alter the *dénouement* to suit it.

There is all the material here for a fascinating, satirical study of an extraordinary breed of aristocratic rotters and prodigal sons living it up in a debauched and decadent society far from the realities of war in Europe.

The possibilities are largely wasted. As director, Michael Radford (*Another Time, Another Place*, 1984) is content with a novelette. The social ambience is treated only in a trivial, superficial way, with naive delight in the delicious decadence of wife-swapping, drug-taking, striptease, transvestite parties and dirty talk.

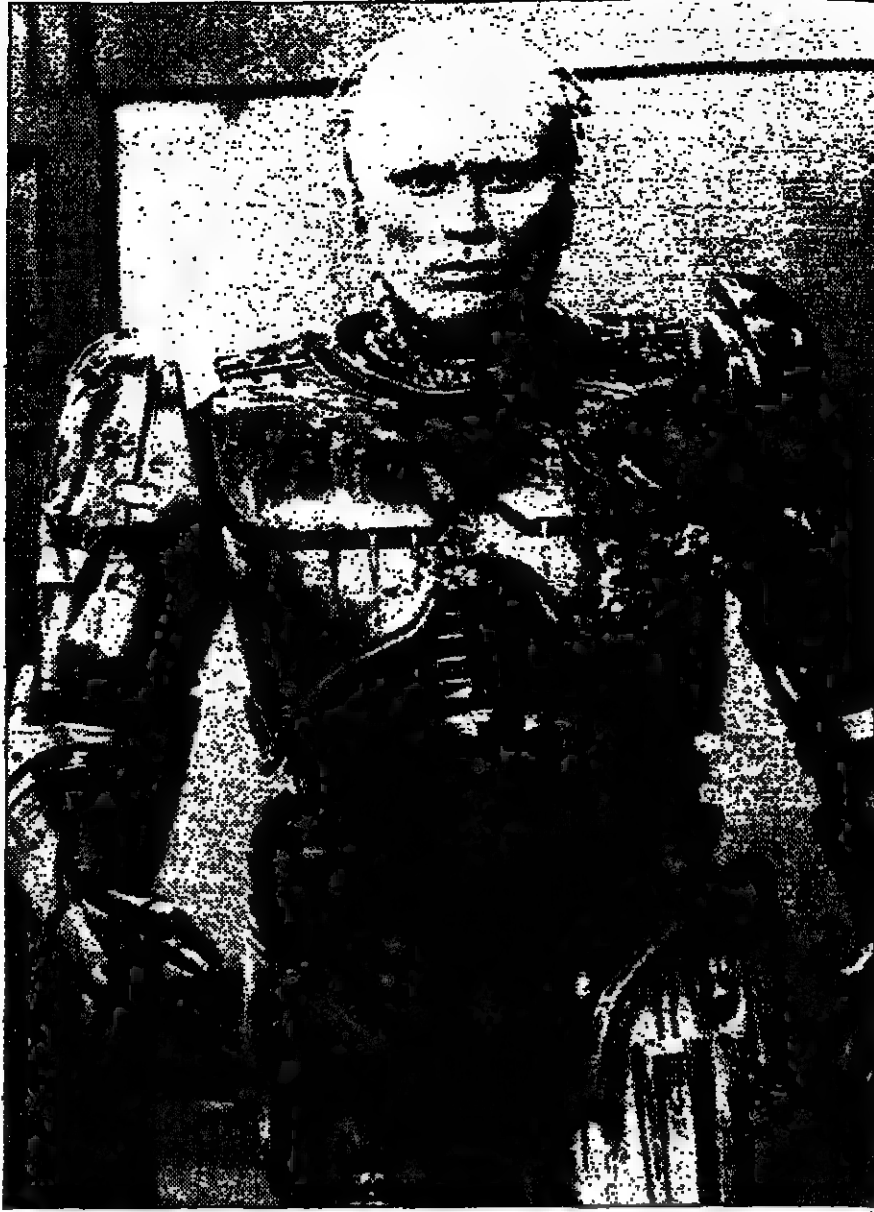
The film gives the impression of having been hastily abridged from a longer script. Characters are underdeveloped or unexplained. Geraldine Chaplin makes three enigmatic appearances: only from external evidence can we learn she is the wife of a decaying old aristocrat, played by the late Trevor Howard. A key character in the drama, Gilbert Colville — played by John Hurt as a crumpled, inarticulate man always attended by magnificent Masai — is only comprehensible with the gloss provided by reference to the original book.

Most of the characters are similarly handicapped by the script. Sarah Miles has matured as a fine actress, plagued though she generally is by type-casting as flakey, lecherous ladies. Here, as the suicidal Alice de Janz, she is given some humiliatingly vulgar business, though she still succeeds better than the rest in suggesting that she really is a prey to tropical madness and not just a participant in a naughty costume masquerade.

Of the principals, Charles Dance is shackled by some of the worst lines. Greta Scacchi makes Diana a convincingly beautiful baby-doll gold-digger, though she brings out her handsome breasts so often that they lose all novelty. Joss Ackland comes out of the affair most creditably, giving the cuckolded Broughton a depth and range quite beyond the script: courteous, bluff, sly and a bit mad, he is the perfect clubman to the end.

Africa — whether the parched plains or the Lutyens Jacobean houses irrelevantly planted by the colonists — looks fine in Roger Deakins's cinematography.

Arthur Penn's career has strayed since its highpoints of *Bonnie and Clyde* and *Alfred Hitchcock's* *Psycho*. *Dead of Winter* is a minor, though entertaining, old-dark-house thriller. Mary Steenburgen plays an actress who is lured by the promise of a job to a re-



The long armour of the law: Peter Weller plays the constabulary cyborg in *RoboCop*

mote Victorian mansion, occupied by a very odd couple, a self-styled psychiatrist (Jan Rubes) and his obsequious assistant (Roddie McDowall). Their old-world courtesy starts to lose conviction when they snip off her ring finger; and from there on the intrigue of murder and blackmail escalates, giving Steenburgen a rewarding triple role.

The script by Marc Shmuger and Mark Malone is neatly plotted and makes knowing use of all the familiar suspense tricks. Penn skilfully manipulates the camera through the intricate geography of the sinister house, and builds up the finale to a pitch of Grand Guignol absurdity.

Terminus is a piece of Franco-German-Hungarian science fiction which aims at

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O'Neill's obsessions

THEATRE

A Touch of the
Poet
Young Vic

Whatever its relationship with the lost plays that formed the rest of O'Neill's American history cycle, this one complete survivor, now seen in London in David Thacker's beautifully cast production, has a clear and honourable place among the great plays of his final period.

Written in the late 1930s, it shows O'Neill discarding his theatrical masks and coming directly to terms with his private obsessions. The result is not the complete act of revelation he achieved in *Long Day's Journey*, but it is a work of searing honesty and one in which he also succeeded in relating his family myth to the surrounding world.

Its hero, like James Tyrone, is a barnstorming actor who bestrides the domestic stage for want of a public platform. The difference is that Con

Melody is trapped in a role he once played in real life, as a gallant major in Wellington's army, now declined into a lowly Bostonian tavern-keeper.

Like Mary Tyrone cherishing her wedding dress, Con cherishes his uniform which comes out once a year on the anniversary of the Battle of Talavera — to the admiration of his Irish peasant wife and the devotion of his daughter Sara (Rudi Dole). O'Neill locks this into period by synchronizing Con's aristocratic pretensions with the election of Andrew Jackson, the first "common man" president; and by introducing a love affair between Sara and a young Boston Brahmin she rescues from a Thoreau-like retreat by a nearby lake.

Both men have "a touch of the poet": Con as a Byronic narcissist, and the unseen Stephen as a transcendental versifier. The symmetry is perfect.

For all these separate elements, it is Con alone who projects the action on its course; an archetypal O'Neill protagonist who clings for survival to his dream and who inflicts endless damage on

those nearest to him through self-hatred.

Timothy Dalton presents the kind of "big-chested, chisled-mug, romantic old boy" that O'Neill demanded. He is also very moving in those endlessly recurring passages where Con, having launched a tirade of unforgivably brutal insults against his womenfolk, instantly caves in with tenderly heartfelt pleas for forgiveness.

Beyond that, he shows the character at arm's length, posturing in front of the sheen mirror and quoting his favourite bit of Byron. Con may be tragic but he is, certainly, funny. He is partnered by Vanessa Redgrave who takes on board O'Neill's dubious proposition that women are fulfilled by love no matter how domestically enslaved.

She is at once exhausted and radiant; rising to passion when her Irish sympathies are touched, or when anyone dares to find fault with her appalling man. The part is underwritten, but you would not suppose so from this full-hearted performance.

Irving Wardle

Seeking himself

OPERA

Rodrigue et
Chimène
Institut Français

Rodrigue et Chimène, the opera Debussy drafted in his late twenties, was until recently known only by reputation as a heroic dud, the manuscript unavailable for inspection. Now the score is being edited for publication by Richard Langham Smith, whose selection of five substantial excerpts, lasting for about an hour, was performed last night.

Of course, singers in evening dress declaiming to the piano cannot give much impression of the grand passions and exotic locations of the El Cid story; equally, one can as well judge a Debussy score by the piano version as a Turner by a black-and-white photograph. The style is certainly Debussy's but it is a work composed in a sort of creative sleep.

Paul Griffiths

King of England

Theatre Royal,
Stratford East

Just retired after 35 years with London Transport, the eponymous Mr King of *Barrie Keefe's* new play has decided to go back "home" to Trinidad. Before doing so, he takes his two daughters out for a smart restaurant meal whose climax — a kind of *bombe surprise* — is to be a grand revelation of generosity (to them) and gratitude (to his adopted country).

The opening scene between King and his younger daughter Susan, a NHS nurse, establishes the currents of father-daughter love and misunderstanding with great skill, unsparing humour, and a subtlety which does not survive very long into the play. Randolph Walker's King is a

Lear on the line in the shunting yard

swaggering, self-dramatizing performance, projected with characteristic vividness (though a little rough around the edges at times), communicating both emotional vulnerability (especially touching in colloquy with his dead wife) and wishful thinking. But it is not quite enough to hold together a play whose shifts of register and reference are ultimately confusing.

Immediately after the interval the *Lear* parallel suddenly comes to life. The death for Mr King is the shunting yard at Stratford Station, where he has repaired clutching a bottle of the restaurant's best cognac. His meeting with an alcoholic Glaswegian whippet

fancier (Larry Dunn lets rip after his restrained pseudo-French waiter in the restaurant scene and threatens to run away with the play) brings both delicious comedy and insights appropriate to a place near the end of the line.

If much of the rest is marred by melodrama and a crude kind of realism, which is in fact sentimental, that is not the fault of the actors or director Philip Hedley. Ellen Thomas glitters in gold lamé in the one-dimensional part of the wicked daughter Linda; and Paul Barber is remarkably good as her gangster with-a-heart boyfriend.

Harry Eyres

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.30** *Confess*. A.L. Kennedy in Love Your Landlord (b/w). 6.35 *Weather*.
- 7.00** *Breakfast Time* with Jeremy Paxman, John Stapleton and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.
- 8.30** *Lavender and Shirley*. American comedy series starring Penny Marshall and Cindy Williams.
- 8.55** Regional news and weather.
- 9.00** News and weather followed by *Open Air*. Paddy Caddell reviews viewers' comments on yesterday's television programme. To participate ring 091-814 0024. 9.20 *Kerry*. Robert Kilroy-Glik chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject.
- 10.00** News and weather followed by *Going for Gold*. Quiz presented by Henry Kelly (r). 10.25 *Children's BBC*. Andy Crane with programme news and birthday greetings followed by *Play School* (r) and *Two Wombles* (r).
- 10.55** *Five to Eleven*. Catherine Grier with a reading 11.00 *News* and weather followed by *Open Air* presented by Bob Wellings and Paddy Caddell.
- 12.00** News and weather followed by *Daytime Live*. Magazine series introduced by Pamela Armstrong, Alan Titchmarsh and Ross Davidson 12.55 Regional news and weather.
- 1.00** *One O'Clock News*. 1.30 *Neighbours*. Dan is becoming disturbed about Daphne's deteriorating health; and Paul tries to muscle in on Shane's latest movie 1.50 *The Big Gold*. European general knowledge quiz presented by Henry Kelly.
- 2.15** *Ant and Dec* (1985) starring Alastair Sim and Bill Travers. The story of a young wedding, bullied by his schoolmates, who

BBC2

- 9.00** *Confess*.
- 9.35** *Daytime on Two*. One-to-one French 9.52 *Towns in the Middle Ages* 10.15 *Science*: Young technologists try to emulate one of Brunel's greatest achievements 11.00 *Thinkabout* 11.18 Part two of a history of the kitchen 11.35 *Scene: Getting in* 12.00 *Science*: The periodic table 12.25 *Musicals* 12.50 *The secondary science curriculum* 1.20 *For the young* 1.38 *Musical patterns*
- 2.00** News and weather followed by a programme on the Chinese New Year.
- 2.15** *The Englishwoman's Wardrobe*. A 40-minute documentary examining why Britain has a bad reputation for dress sense (r). (Confess)
- 2.55** *The Yarn and the Hakeker*. A film about John Darwell (r).
- 3.00** News and weather followed by *Indoor Hockey*. Steve Rider introduces highlights of the semifinals of the British Isles championship from the Alexandra Pavilion.
- 3.50** News, regional news and weather.
- 4.00** *Confess*. Word game.
- 4.30** *Day Out*. Ant and Dec continue their tour of the West Country, visits Burnham-on-Sea, Bournemouth and Bournemouth, along the Somerset coast. (First shown on BBC1)
- 5.00** *Best of Brass* introduced by Gerald Harrison. The featured bands today are the Desford Colliery Band and the CWS (Glasgow) Band. From the Assembly Rooms, Derby.
- 5.30** *Holiday 88* (r). (Confess)
- 6.00** *Cricket*. Richie Benaud introduces highlights of the 50-over-a-side match between Australia and England in Melbourne.
- 6.50** *Popeye Classics*. Goon Land (b/w).
- 7.00** *Cover to Cover* presented by Jill Neville. The guests, who include Anthony Howard and Sebastian Faulks, talk to Edmund White about his novel *The Beautiful Boy* in *Empty* and discuss Gary Wills's *Reagan's America* and Frances D'Amico's *The House on Moor Lake*,

Rory Bremner on BBC2, 10.10pm

7.30 *The Education*

Programme investigates school governors and talks to five parent-governors from Devon who

discuss their views on the role of the parent-governor.

Mrs Angela Rumbold, minister of state at the DES, explains how the government intends to attract parent-governors and how they could be helped by training.

8.00 *Out of Court* presented by David Jessel and Sue Cook. An examination of euthanasia, legal in the Netherlands but forbidden in this country.8.30 *North Korea: The Hermit Kingdom*. A rare glimpse of life above the 38th parallel, filmed by Erik Durschmied, where the people are dominated by the ubiquitous presence of the legendary Kim Il Sung.8.50 *Dogfood Dan* and the Carmarthen Cowboy. (See Choice)9.30 *40 Minutes: Thomas Walker*. A portrait of a Welsh writer, an executive with Thames Water who leaves his desk every two months for India where he is acting as a consultant in the £200 million scheme to cleanse the river Ganges. (Confess)10.10 *Now - Something Else* - Again. Comedy impressions from Rory Bremner (r).10.30 *Newsnight* presented by Peter Snow and Donald MacCormick.11.30 *Weather*.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00** TV-am begins with cartoons and a comedy series followed, at 7.00 and for 10 minutes, by *Good Morning Britain* presented by Richard Keys.
- 8.25** *Thames news*.
- 9.30** *Give Us a Cue*. Celebrity mime game. 10.00 *Sally Barber* 10.25 *News*.
- 10.30** *The Time*. Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject 11.10 *Puddle Lane*. Puppet series. 11.25 *Thames news*.
- 11.30** *Hometown*. Roy Hudd visits the peaceful Devon fishing village of South Hams where older people remain in the village was not so quiet, illustrated by archive footage from the Second World War. 12.00 *The Spillings*.
- 12.30** *News* with Julie Somerville 12.50 *News*.
- 1.00** *Chain Letters*. Word game presented by Jeremy Beadle 1.30 *Falcon Crest*. Drama serial starring Jane Wyman as the matriarch of a California wine dynasty 2.30 *News* 3.00 *Super Soap*.
- 3.30** *One Day*. Bernard Braden, with the help of archive newsreels, remembers the frozen winter of 1963 3.50 *News*. Drama serial about London's art trade 3.55 *Thames news* headlines 3.55 *News* and 4.00 *News*.
- 4.00** *Cherry Crawlers* 4.10 *News* 4.20 *The Body Show*. With Matthew Corbett. A man interrupts a football game on television and announces that the Earth is being colonized by

CHANNEL 4

- 6.30** *Schools*. Plans for food 6.52 *Understanding numbers and mathematical concepts* 6.54 *Helping people with learning difficulties* 10.20 *Generating electricity* 10.41 *The role of women in modern Egypt* 11.05 *The story of Oscar* 11.15 *How the world's oldest glass bottle* 11.44 *Choosing and buying a car*
- 12.00** *Business Daily*. Financial and business news presented by Susanah Simons.
- 12.30** *Just 4 Fun*. Two programmes for the young.
- 1.00** *Do We Acquire a Computer* (r). (Oracle) 1.30 *The Marketing Mix* (r). (Oracle)
- 2.30** *The Parliament Programme*
- 2.50** *Women in View*. A repeat of yesterday's programme which examined the reasons behind the growth of selling at home - particularly in the North of England.
- 3.00** *First Night Wedding* (1941, b/w) starring Margaret Lockwood and Derek Farr. Romantic comedy about a young engaged couple's plans for a quiet wedding being spoiled by the arrival of a friend who wants to turn the event into a spectacle. Directed by Anthony Asquith.
- 4.30** *Pinetree to Ice*. Culic-fro general news programme.
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PART 2

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4 1988

THE TIMES

BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-26
SPORT 36-40

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1413.2 (-6.9)
FT-SE 100
1766.3 (-8.1)
Bargains
26348 (24230)
USM (Datastream)
147.23 (-0.25)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7685 (same)
W German mark
2.9826 (+0.0053)
Trade-weighted
74.4 (same)

Bibby pays £22m for laser firm

J Bibby, the feeds and seeds group now 86 per cent-owned by Barlow Rand, is paying \$38 million (£22 million) cash for 90 per cent of a US laser manufacturer, Melles Griot. The company designs, manufactures and distributes high quality lasers, electro optics and related products for telecommunications, medical and industrial markets.

Bibby already has a science products division, which contributed £5.8 million of last year's £34.8 million pre-tax profit. This deal will expand the science division to between a quarter and third of the entire group, said Mr Richard Mansell-Jones, the new chairman.

Higher payout

The Microsystems Group, a manufacturer of a wide range of electronic products, is paying a final dividend of 2p making 3p (2.5p) for the year ended October 31 after reporting pre-tax profits of £4.12 million against £2.54 million. Turnover, helped by acquisitions, rose from £11.5 million to £19.9 million.

Stake raised

Trifalgar House has increased its stake in Costain Group, the construction and mining company, from 5.4 per cent to 6.1 per cent. A spokesman for Trifalgar House said: "We continue to regard this as a trade investment." Costain shares gained 3p to 275p.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	1980.10 (-2.82)
London	1413.2 (-6.9)
FT-SE 100	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 250	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 500	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 1000	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 1500	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 2000	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 2500	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 3000	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 3500	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 4000	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 4500	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 5000	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 5500	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 6000	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 6500	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 7000	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 7500	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 8000	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 8500	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 9000	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 9500	1766.3 (-8.1)
FT-SE 10000	1766.3 (-8.1)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

NISSA	580p (+25p)
Turnbull Scott	4625p (+20p)
Agis (Wimbledon)	2515p (+14p)
UK Land	450p (+12p)
Mandarin	320p (+12p)
Verobest	435p (+10p)
Brown Stanley	895p (+10p)
Conder Group	225p (+12p)
Kent Saver	390p (+12p)
Norman Hay	390p (+12p)
FALLS:	
Schroders	900p (-25p)
Hardinger	800p (-25p)
Sun Alliance	845p (-17p)
Corn Gold	795p (-15p)
Independent	350p (-10p)
FAL	1925p (-10p)
Eucalyptus Pulp	6375p (-12p)
Daglan	795p (-10p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	9%
3-month Interbank	9 1/8%
3-month eligible bills	8 1/8%-9%
Fixed rate	
US Prime Rate	8 1/2%-9%
Federal Funds	6 1/4%
3-month Treasury	5.69-5.69%
30-year bonds	10 1/2%-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ \$1.7685	£ \$1.7685
£ DM 2.9826	£ DM 2.9826
£ Sfr 2.4370	£ Sfr 2.4370
£ FF 10.0828	£ FF 10.0828
£ Yen 226.02	£ Yen 226.02
£ Indec 74.4	£ Indec 74.4
£ SDR 16.5313	£ SDR 16.5313

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$447.10 PM \$445.40
Close	\$443.25-443.75 (\$220.75-221.25)
New York	
Comex	\$443.00-443.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar.)	per \$18.35 (\$18.27)
Crude oil	
Crude oil	
Crude oil	
Crude oil	
Crude oil	
Crude oil	
Crude oil	
Crude oil	
Crude oil	
Crude oil	

Securities watchdog seeks new powers to prevent another crash

SEC chief in reform call

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr David Ruder, the chairman of the US Securities and Exchange Commission, yesterday asked Congress for broad new powers to correct problems in the financial system which emerged after last October's market crash.

At the same time, Mr Ruder outlined a specific list of responses to the crash which he planned to co-ordinate through other agencies and specific exchanges. Among them was a temporary increase in margin requirements of up to 25 per cent for stock index futures.

The results of the SEC's study also convinced Mr Ruder that the US must take the lead in pressing for more stringent international regulation of markets. He told members of the Senate banking committee that he planned to initiate as soon as possible high-level talks with regulators in Tokyo and elsewhere.

"We must respond to these developments by working with other regulators to develop trading, clearance, and settlement linkages, international trade and 'mechanisms', and adequate financial oversight systems."

In his first formal response on the causes of the crash, Mr Ruder said the SEC intended to act quickly in co-operation with the futures industry to restore investor confidence.

But overall, in explaining the recommendations contained in the agency's 900-page report on the crash, Mr Ruder said the SEC would need new legislative authority. This was necessary to give the agency power to act as the judge of last resort in disputes involving both securities and futures products related to securities.

"We have now had warning that the automated system did not work, and it is up to the SEC, the exchanges, and the self-regulatory organizations to make sure that it does not happen again," Mr Ruder said.

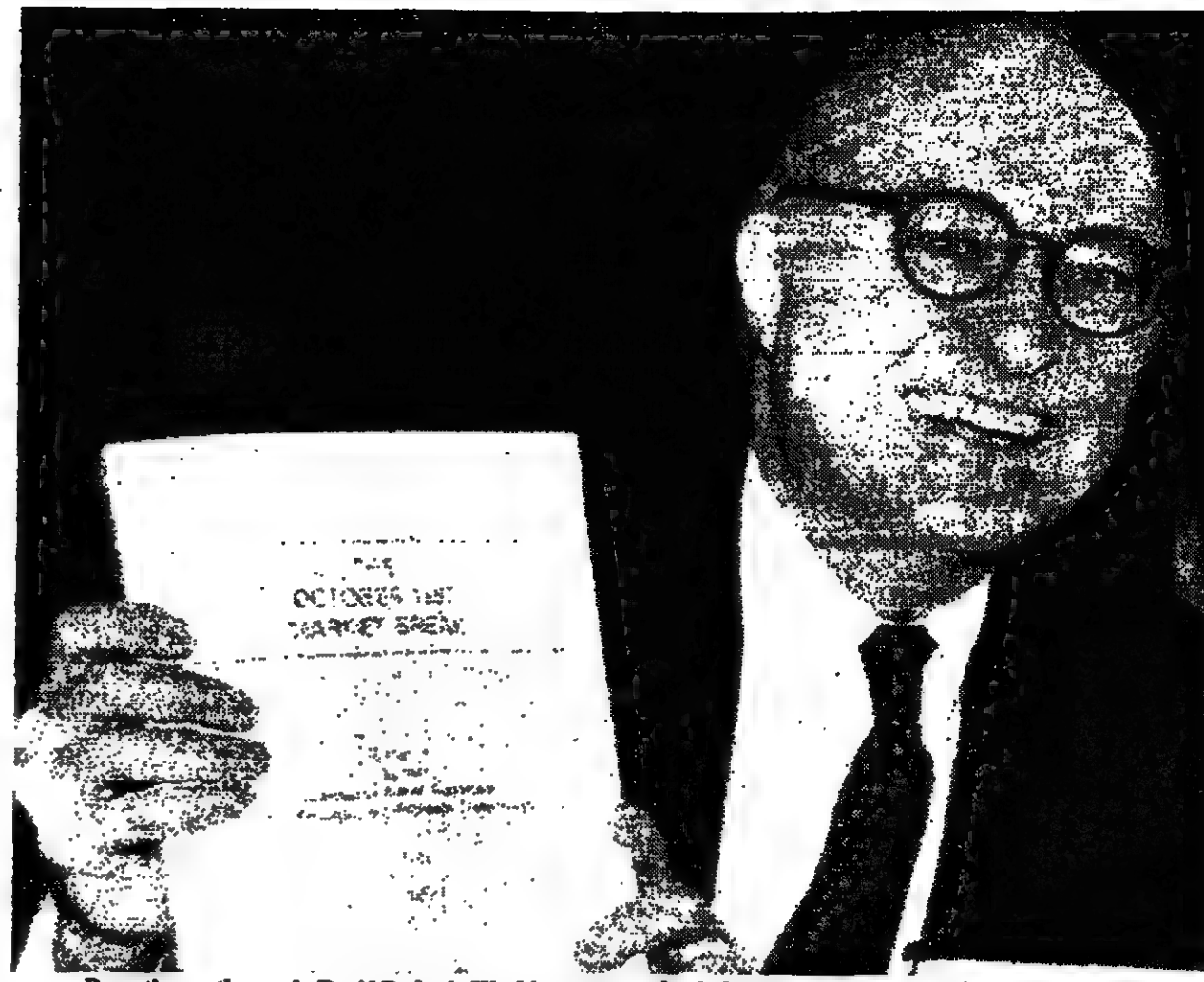
He was testifying on the second day of comprehensive Congressional hearings into the causes of the market crash.

Mr Ruder disclosed that the SEC's own exhaustive study of market activity on Black Monday (October 19) and the day after had led to at least one independent investigation of violations involving "front-running". That involved the trading of a stock or option by a large firm, usually for its own account, based on non-public information regarding block transactions which would dramatically affect the price.

Overall he said the full five-member commission agreed that a number of steps should be taken in response to the crash. The SEC recommended that the New York Stock Exchange's automated order system be expanded greatly; increased capital requirements be placed on its specialist (market-maker) system; greater fines be levied against member firms for violations; and that the NYSE consider creating new posts for trading baskets of stocks to lessen volatility associated with program trading.

In addition, Mr Ruder said the SEC wanted more information about program trading, including the identities of the institutions making the transactions. He also said the agency would press all exchanges to lodge new studies of "short-selling" with the aim of developing new restrictions for futures.

Finally, Mr Ruder agreed with the findings of Mr Nicholas Brady's presidential task force, that there should be a co-ordinated clearing, credit, and settlement system linking the markets. But he stopped short of advocating a single agency to do this. Mr Ruder disagreed strongly with a proposal to transform the Federal Reserve Board into a "super agency" to regulate the securities markets. In addition, he opposed daily price limitations on trading in shares.



Reporting on the crash: David Ruder in Washington yesterday before giving evidence to a Senate committee

Guinness Peat man paid £1m

By Cliff Feltham

A banker in the Guinness Peat Group (GPG) was paid £784,000 last year as part of a profit-sharing scheme boosting his total pay to about £1 million.

The banker, Mr Joel Leff, 52, runs the United States-based Forstmann-Leff Associates fund management wing of the group and sits on the main board of GPG. He sold his business to the UK banking group just over a year ago and was allowed a major share of the profits after guaranteeing a fixed amount to GPG.

According to the group's latest report and accounts, Mr Leff was paid £784,442 as an "incentive compensation payment". This was triggered after his business, which has an estimated £3 billion under management, earned "well in excess" of the guaranteed £7.2 million.

The excess profits, after expenses, are split between GPG and Mr Leff and his management colleagues.

Last night a spokesman for GPG said: "We do not mind what Mr Leff gets. He only collects after we get our guaranteed sum."

Mr Leff also collected director's fees.

Tricentral agrees £187m bid by Atlantic Richfield

By Carol Ferguson

Atlantic Richfield, the seventh largest US oil company, has made a full takeover bid for Tricentral at 200p a share. The offer, recommended by the Tricentral board, values the British independent oil group at £187 million.

Arco has 35 per cent of Tricentral's shares after buying 20 per cent in the market yesterday within one-and-a-half hours. It already had 14.6 per cent, bought in a market bid last week at 180p. Tricentral closed at 197p.

Mr Piers von Simon of SG Warburg, the merchant bank advising Arco, said the oil group had no intention of keeping Tricentral as a free-standing unit, and the chairman, Mr James Longcroft, and the board of directors would not be staying on.

He said Tricentral would be disbanded but every effort would be made to find jobs for Tricentral's 100 or so employees. Arco already employs 150 people in Britain and has been actively recruiting exploration and production staff.

The formal offer document detailing Arco's bid is expected to be sent to Tricentral's shareholders next week. However, Mr von Simon said Arco could have more than 51 per cent of Tricentral's shares before then. The offer is all cash, but a loan note alternative is being considered.

Mr von Simon said Tricentral was a fairly small acquisition for Arco, which is capitalized at \$13 billion (£8 billion). Mr Al Greenstein of Arco said the company was interested in further investment.

Both Britoil and BP are expected to be called in today for discussions with the Chancellor on how the Government will use its golden share in Britoil, the subject of a BP bid. BP effectively has control of the company, with 30 per cent purchased on the open market and the promise of Arco's 24 per cent stake, the golden share gives the Treasury the power of veto. It has said it would use these powers in the national interest if it regards any bid for Britoil as "unacceptable."

wherever there were good opportunities.

"Britoil would have been an excellent investment, but \$5 billion is too much for us to have in one geographical region," he said.

Arco had hoped to do a deal with Britoil which stopped short of full takeover, but the BP bid pre-empted this. Arco expects to clear £100 million profit after US corporate taxes from its Britoil holding. Mr Greenstein said that taking Tricentral's debt into account, the total investment was about \$600 million.

A spokesman for Elf Aquitaine, the French oil company which still has a 160p offer on the table, said Elf would issue a statement soon. Analysts, however, believe it would be unlikely to top Arco's 200p offer.

Arco produces from three North Sea gas fields with two further gas fields, Vulcan and Valiant, under development. Production from Hewitt, Leeman and Thames averages 115 million cubic feet of gas a day net and 1,000 barrels a day of oil.

Sizeable holders of Tricentral's convertible loan stock were awaiting details of the offer for their holdings which have yet to be announced. Several leading institutions are seeking assurance that the terms reflect the sizeable income differential between the loan stock and Tricentral ordinary shares.

Hanson and UB discuss sale of Ross Young

By Alison Eadie

United Biscuits and Hanson are understood to be in talks which could lead to Hanson selling its Ross Young foods and Young's seafoods businesses.

Stock market reports yesterday suggested a price of £275 million, but food manufacturing analysts thought this was on the low side. Neither company would comment on the reports.

UB, the world's second largest biscuits company, tried to acquire Ross Young two years ago as part of a larger plan to merge with Imperial Group, then the owner. Hanson, the industrial conglomerate, won the hotly-contested £2.6 billion bid battle for Imperial.

Hanson has since sold off large parts of Imperial, recouping £1.7 billion of the price it paid, but retaining most of the food interests and the strongly cash-generative tobacco activities.

The Courage, brewery and public houses division was sold to Elders Ltd of Australia for £1.4 billion; Trusthouse Forte paid £190 million for a block of hotel and restaurant businesses; Golden Wonder was sold to Dalgety for £87 million and Finlay's, the newsagent, was sold for £17 million.

UB is keen to make acquisitions in its core areas either in Britain or the US. It has just sold its Specialty Brands foods operation in the US and has the finances for a sizeable acquisition.

Ross Young would give UB a third leg in British food operations to balance biscuits and KP snack foods. It made trading profits last year of about £22 million. It consolidated its market share in frozen foods and is understood to be making inroads into Bird's Eye's dominant market position.

UB is estimated to have made pre-tax profits last year of about £145 million and is expected to make about £160 million this year.

Although UB's interest in Ross Young is well known, there are also thought to be other potential buyers with interest being shown by at least one overseas company.

Hanson, through its disposals of parts of Imperial and SCM in America, has indicated a willingness to sell parts of its empire if the price is right.

Magnet director's sudden departure

By Alexandra Jackson

The surprise announcement of the imminent departure of Magnet's finance director, Mr Gordon Brown, has fuelled speculation that all is not well at the D-I-Y timber products group. The share price has been firm recently on takeover talk and gained 14p yesterday to 225p.

However, Mr Tom Duxbury, the chairman, said the parting had been "very amicable" and that current trading was going very well. "We have had a record January, the best month ever," he said.

It has been a widely held view among those close to the company that there has been a growing rift between Mr Brown, who sports a cautious style, and the more ebullient Mr Duxbury.

Gold price faces \$440 test level

By Colin Campbell

The London gold price faces a critical test whether or not it can stay above \$440 after having sold yesterday from \$442.50 to \$443.40 an ounce - last seen in July.

The metal, already weighed down by too many negatives, and very few positive factors, dropped through the psychological \$453 chart barrier in early trading, triggering off fresh selling orders.

By mid-afternoon, gold was down to \$445.40 and lost further ground later as the mood of depression fed upon itself. It closed in London at \$443.50 an ounce.

The upset knocked £7 off the price of the Krugger Rand and Britannia gold coins, and left the silver price 14.5p weaker at 360.25p an ounce. Platinum was also down, falling by \$14.25 to \$442.50 an ounce. Gold shares were generally lower.

Gold analysts avidly follow various resistance lines for "buy" and "sell" signals, but the consensus is that \$440 is the next critical line to watch for, and then \$425 and \$417.

Mr Richard Lake, gold analyst at SBCI Savory Milne, the broker, gives a warning that a significant trendline would be broken if gold challenged \$425.

Gold has been depressed by fears of oversupply and concern over massive gold loans.

Some believe bullion could bounce back off \$440 because there it would be equivalent to \$Fr600 - historically a rock-bottom support level - and exactly half its all-time peak.

CBI taskforce report 'failed to identify the issues' New doubts cast on City's role

By John Bell, City Editor

Professor Colin Mayer of the City University Business School has thrown an academic spanner into the workings of the CBI taskforce which recently dismissed charges of "short-termism" against the City.

Far from being the definitive work on the subject, the report produced by the taskforce failed to identify the issues, said Prof Mayer yesterday.

The CBI initiative in setting up a working party was borne of a deep unease among industrialists that London's financial community was made up of fat weather vane and all too ready to part with investments in sound companies facing hostile takeover bids. The conclusions of the taskforce were, however, broadly favourable to the City's technical performance as a fund-raiser, though it admitted communications could be improved.

"As I sit in the Business School, Prof Mayer said that in seeking to evaluating the role of the City in the funding of industry, I feel increasingly uneasy," said Prof Mayer at a London symposium on industry and finance. "The models that I am supposed to respect and apply as an academic seem to bear so little resemblance to what I see of financial practice."

The main deficiency of the CBI report was its failure to take a broader perspective, he said. There was no analysis of the costs of funding particular investment projects in different countries. There was no evaluation of the relative merits of takeovers and banks in effecting corporate reorganizations. And most seriously of all, there was no discussion of the extent to which it was the role of the financial system to arrest a decline in corporate profitability in a country in which investment had been inadequate or misdirected, he said.

While the CBI report was water under the bridge, there remained a pressing need for some evidence on the relative merits of different financial systems, before more of British industry, not least the financial sector itself, fell under the weight of Japanese capital, said Prof Mayer.

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TEMPUS

Gearing may inhibit Trafalgar bid

currencies and world economies up in the air, any determined overseas expansion must be vulnerable to exchange rate movements, something which, to date, has largely not affected *Mikrosystems*.

Because of the hint of international moves, estimates of this year's profits/turnover growth rates — though still likely to be sound — are not as exciting as might otherwise have been expected.

However, expansion into international markets is necessary if the group is to continue to move ahead, and there should be sufficient fundamental growth — despite possible currency brakes — to see profits up by about 20 per cent this year.

Europe is the prime expansion area in mind, and there are hopes that the \$3.3 million (£1.9 million) contract to supply bus ticketing equipment in New Jersey will lead to other U.S. deals.

Initial profit suggestions, which could be upgraded as the year progresses, are in the £5 million region. A handsome 5.5 times covered payment points to yet further dividend growth.

At an unchanged 307p on 13 times earnings, and down from their pre-October peak of 388p, there is every reason to hold — but little reason to chase.

Fear of more job cuts as turnover slumps

advance towards the 380p level this year.

Takeover speculation in Magnet, the D-I-Y and furniture retailer, intensified in the wake of Tuesday's leap of 25p to 245p in late trading. Yesterday the price advanced

another 7p to 252p as speculation was intensified by the surprise resignation of Mr Gordon Brown, finance director.

More than two million shares changed hands with

dealers convinced that a bid is on the way. Ledbroke, Woolworth and Rugby have all been tipped as possible suitors. But recently Wickes, the rival D-I-Y group, has emerged as the favourite to

Elsewhere in the building sector, Costain, the construction group, moved up 3p to 275p, after 277p, as Trafalgar House, the construction, hotel

Trafalgar maintained that its holding is purely an investment.

[illegible]

54%	48%	Stevens JP	29%	29%
54%	56%	Sun Comp	54%	63%
52%	68%	TRW Inc	48%	49
32%	32%	Teletype	310	313%
48%	47%	Tenneco	40	39%
48%	17%	Texaco	37	37
33%	33%	Tex Eastn	25%	26%
28%	28%	Texas Inst	44%	48
39%	110	Tex Util	30%	30%

50%	38%	Tadron	24%	23%
50	49%	Translators	38%	38%
77%	77%	USG	28%	28%
32%	31%	USX Cp	30%	30%
10	10	Unifiner Pto	35%	35%
35%	35%	Un Carbide	21	20%
32%	52%	Un Pac Cp	55%	55
55	55%	Unays Cp	32%	33%
28	28%	Un Brands	43%	43%
3%	3%	Us West	53%	53%

2%	71%	Utd Teen	36%	36%
17%	38	Unocal	30%	30%
19	28%	Warn Lamb	75	75%
5%	21	Wells Far	52%	53%
2%	2%	Wesing Ei	51%	51
7%	47%	Weyerhae	38%	38%
10%	30%	Whirlpool	27%	27%
6%	45%	Woolworth	39%	40
5%	26%	Xerox Cp	55%	54%
5%	44%	Zenith	15	15%
3%	63%			

2%	33%	
4%	153%	
9%	59%	
2%	43%	
5%	88	
8%	9%	
7%	37%	
11%	41%	

CANADIAN PRICES

Agnico Eag	15%	15%
Alcan Alum	31%	30%
Algom Stl	14.82	14%
Can Pacific	21	20%

5%	58%	Cominco	13%	13%
6%	6%	Con Bathurst	17	17%
0%	19%	Hazek S Gan	19%	19%
0	10%	Hud Bay M	19%	19%
7%	27%	Inmetco	24%	24%
1%	41%	Imperial Oil	54%	54%
5%	26%	Int Pipe	42%	42%
8%	26%	Reut Traction	14	14%

70%	70%	70%	70%
20%	20%	20%	20%
28%	28%	28%	28%
3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40
16%	16%	16%	16%
31%	31%	31%	31%

Holmes à Court purchase of Financial Review cancelled

From Richard Battley, Sydney

The sale of the *Australian Financial Review*, the country's sole business newspaper, was cancelled yesterday when Mr Robert Holmes à Court failed to pay the first instalment of Aus\$1.25 million (£500,000).

A spokesman for the owner, John Fairfax, said the company was pleased with the cancellation of the Aus\$300 million sale and was considering offers from three media companies.

It decided to name them but Pearson, the publisher of the *Financial Times*, is understood to be one.

However, the Trade Prac-

tices Commission, Australia's monopoly monitor, said yesterday that a sale to Pearson would be closely scrutinized because the British group was 20 per cent owned by Mr Rupert Murdoch's company, The News Corporation. Mr Robert Maxwell and Mr Conrad Black are also considered to be potential bidders.

All three would need approval from Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board to own more than 15 per cent of the *Australian Financial Review*.

Analysts here believe that Mr Warwick Fairfax, the proprietor, aged 27, needs to sell at least a substantial stake in the highly regarded news-

paper, estimated to be worth at least Aus\$250 million, to offset partly the Aus\$2 billion debts he has incurred in the return to private ownership of the media group which his family has controlled for 150 years.

Warning over BHP reshuffle

Shareholders of BHP, Australia's largest company, were warned yesterday of the "financial risk" involved in the multi-billion dollar restructuring of the oil, steel and mining conglomerate.

This risk is largely associated with external market forces, including the possibil-

ity of adverse changes in oil and other commodity prices, exchange rates, interest rates and economic conditions generally. Sir James Balderstone, the chairman, said in a statement.

It accompanied information memoranda the company released to shareholders to support its bold plan to rid itself of its two main predators, Mr Holmes à Court's Bell Resources and Mr John Elliott's Elders XL.

The most controversial aspect of the plan, which requires shareholders' approval at an extraordinary meeting scheduled for February 25, is the Aus\$2.7 billion (£1.1 billion) buy-back of its own

shares and the cancellation of 20 per cent of its capital.

Sir James said gearing would be "increased in the short term" notwithstanding the proposed asset sales of Aus\$1 billion.

An independent report by Arthur Andersen & Co, BHP's auditor, said gearing would rise from 72 per cent to 146 per cent. This would fall to 129 per cent on the realization of the assets.

Mr Michael Tilley of Lloyd's International, the corporate adviser, said those gearing figures were a "worst-case scenario" and would be considerably lower within 12 months. The post-sales gearing was within acceptable international limits.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Ross makes more sense with UB than Hanson

Sir Hector Laing always gets full marks for persistence. He won the soft cookie war in the United States after a bloody fight. Now he is hoping to pull off the acquisition of Ross Young's frozen foods operations from Hanson.

Sir Hector has long coveted Ross Young. The benefits of putting it together with United Biscuits' much smaller and less successful frozen food operations were part of the reason behind the attempted merger of UB with Imperial Group two years ago. Hanson spoilt the party and snapped up the prize of Imperial, but Sir Hector has been bidding his time to see what crumbs might fall from the Hanson table.

Hanson has demonstrated with its break-up of SCM in America and its sale of parts of Imperial that, at the right price, it will consider selling just about anything. The question remains what is the right price?

The market rumours yesterday named a price of £275 million, which, for a business which made trading profits of about £22 million last year, could be a bit on the low side. Previous rumours of Ross Young sell-offs have fixed on higher sums, up to £350 million.

The synergies involved in putting together the two food operations would make Ross Young worth more to UB than to Hanson. It would also give UB a significant third leg in food to balance biscuits and savoury snacks. Hanson's British food operations were all acquired from Imperial and include Lea & Perrin's Worcestershire sauce, HP sauces, Elizabeth Shaw chocolates and Seven Seas health products. The total food side made trading profits last year of £42 million, a rise from £22 million in 1986.

UB looks in good financial shape to make a big acquisition and is on record as wanting to buy either in Britain or the US. It has just replenished its coffers

through the sale of Specialty Brands in the US for an undisclosed sum reputed to be more than £100 million.

UB could also be eyeing Rowntree's snack food businesses, which are up for sale. Tom's Foods in the US would probably cost upwards of £150 million and Rowntree Snack Foods in Britain would cost about £20 million.

Lawson playing safe?

Is Nigel Lawson, having built a reputation for Britain's relatively good inflation performance, really going to throw it all away on a post-election binge?

It has been natural to assume that the Chancellor is determined to be bold and is at odds with his timid mandarins at the Treasury. More likely, both the Chancellor and his officials have recognized that now is not the time to take too many risks.

Apart from the rumoured Soviet nuclear accident, pay and the outcome of the Ford pay ballot are the main topics of conversation in the City. Although it would be wrong to start talking of a 1970s-style wage explosion, the feeling is that the Achilles' heel of the British economy is starting to expose itself once more.

In this context, even if the economy is starting to slow — although the jury is still out on that one after the base rate rise — then a big package of tax cuts is hardly the appropriate message to convey to the labour market.

Assuming that personal tax reform is to be a serious proposition, then the Chancellor cannot realistically aim to introduce it in one go. It is often forgotten that radical changes in husband-and-wife taxation are constrained by the available systems and information at the Inland Revenue, and could not be fully implemented until 1990.

Bankers on musical chairs

Hill Samuel has dropped out of sight in the latest league table of merchant banks, ranked according to corporate finance expertise. Shareholders in the TSB Group might be alarmed that the bank for which they paid twice as much as they should have fallen from fifth in line to the corporate finance crown to 14th, but it is unlikely to be more than of passing interest to the TSB board.

The survey was, to be fair, conducted in Hill Samuel's darkest hour. The corporate finance stars had departed and the TSB was taking criticism for pressing on with a deal after Black Monday at a price negotiated when the bull market was still running hard.

TSB was advised by Lazard Brothers, which also saw no reason to change the

terms of the acquisition just because the stock market had fallen by nearly a third in value. And Lazard Brothers has pushed up the league from eighth place to fifth, taking Hill Samuel's old position. If Lazard did right by their client, the TSB, then we should see Hill Samuel bouncing back up the table in a year's time. If not, maybe Lazard should drop out...

Top of the merchant bankers survey, conducted by Consensus Research in conjunction with *The Treasurer*, comes SG Warburg, having changed places with Morgan Grenfell, still a formidable force in second place. Credit Suisse First Boston and Goldman Sachs International have begun to inch their way into the league.

Gap in pay between sexes 'still substantial'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The gap between male and female earnings has narrowed under the impact of equal pay legislation but remains substantial, says an article published today in the February *Employment Gazette*.

But there has also been a trend towards a more uneven distribution of earnings in the economy generally in the 1980s, says the article.

Between 1973 and 1986, real earnings for women in all occupations rose by 41 per cent, while real earnings for men increased by 20.4 per cent.

Average earnings for women were only 66 per cent of those for men in 1986, an improvement on the pre-Equal Pay Act position of 56 per cent in 1973, but still far behind.

For both men and women, top earners have benefited but the lower paid are worse off. In 1986, the top 10 per cent of male earners received an income of, on average, 2.88 times those in the bottom 10 per cent.

In 1986, the top 10 per cent of women earned 2.61 times the income of the bottom 10 per cent, compared with an average figure of around 2.4 in the 1970s.

The widening of the distribution of earnings for all employees in the 1980s partly reflects the abandonment of incomes policies, which were a feature of the labour market in the 1970s, and which acted to compress pay differentials.



Calling business: John Condron of Yellow Pages (Photograph by John Williams)

Dial direct to Yellow Pages

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

An experimental Talking Pages, a phone-in version of the profitable Yellow Pages business directory subsidiary of British Telecom, has been launched in Brighton, to be followed in a week by a twin service in Bristol.

The new telephone information service, using the Yellow Pages data base but with greater details of listings, could be launched nationally within a year if the pilot experiments prove successful. It is the second new format

in a year to exploit Yellow Pages, which has been going for 20 years as a printed directory operation. A year ago an electronic version of Yellow Pages was introduced, accessed by videotape and teletype terminals.

Talking Pages has a wider target audience but is expected to be valuable to business users needing information outside their own geographical area, normally the only one for which they would have a Yellow Pages directory.

Mr John Condron, the marketing controller of Yellow Pages, said: "Talking Pages will lead the way in telephone information services in Europe. Most similar services throughout the world are very specialized and limited by the type of information they make available and the way it is relayed. For the first six months of the experiment, the service will be free to advertisers but the aim is for advertising charges to cover the cost."

Blue Arrow sells cleaning division

By Cliff Feldman

Blue Arrow, the employment agency group, is collecting £8.5 million from the sale of its office cleaning business.

The long-awaited deal will leave Mr Tony Berry, the chairman, free to concentrate on developing the American Manpower group acquired last

year for more than £830 million.

The building services division being sold consists of Blue Arrow Cleaning Group, Tanton Engineering Services, and Storage Techniques.

Last year the division

earned profits of £549,000 on a turnover of £15.2 million of which the cleaning side accounted for £13 million.

The business is being bought by Initial Contract Services, the cleaning subsidiary of the BET industrial services group.

Société denies it is buying own shares

By Colin Nairn

The price of shares in Société Générale, Belgium's largest company, rose sharply yesterday, provoking accusations from Signor Carlo de Benedetti, the Italian corporate raider, that the company was buying its own shares.

The heavy buying, which broke Brussels Bourse records, saw 2 million shares, or about 7.5 per cent of the big holding company's authorized capital, change hands. The share price jumped 7.5 per cent. Large volumes were also believed to have been traded outside bourse hours.

Société Générale denied taking up its own shares. If the allegation is true, the company is breaking regulations.

The Commission placed a fresh obstacle in the way of Signor de Benedetti's bid for Société Générale on Tuesday, saying it might take up to three months to reach a decision on whether his bid could proceed.

Signor de Benedetti, interviewed on Belgian television, said he expected to prove soon that Société Générale was behind the share-buying spree.

He had preliminary talks yesterday with M André Leyens, the Belgian industrialist also trying to secure control of Société Générale. More talks are expected later.

The interests backing M Leyens claim they can put 34.25 per cent of the disputed company in "friendly hands".

Signor de Benedetti already has 18.6 per cent and wants another 15 per cent.

Lloyd's approves takeover of Minet

By Alison Eadie

The council of Lloyd's has swept away its restrictions on insurance companies controlling Lloyd's brokers and paved the way for future takeover bids.

The council yesterday approved the £400 million takeover of Minet Holdings, a Lloyd's broker, by St Paul Companies, an American insurance group. It agreed to waive its rule whereby insurance companies were not allowed to own more than 26 per cent of a Lloyd's broker. St Paul's bid, launched in December, was conditional on approval by the council.

The 26 per cent rule has now been abolished, in anticipation of new regulations coming into effect, the council said. A consultative document on the regulation of Lloyd's brokers, published in November, advocated abandonment of the ownership restrictions, and suggested that reputation and suitability should be the sole criteria for determining ownership.

St Paul has given undertakings to Lloyd's "that it will not directly or indirectly take part in, interfere with or seek to influence the directors of the Lloyd's brokers in the management of their business

where to do so would be to the detriment of the Society of Lloyd's, members of Lloyd's, or policyholders".

The council's decision was prompted by the increasing deregulation of financial markets, and by the need to boost the volume of business coming to Lloyd's. Lloyd's suffers from overcapacity and increasing competition from other insurers.

The consultative document said it was in Lloyd's interests to avoid the imposition of non-commercial structural requirements which would militate against the value of being a Lloyd's broker. Only accredited

Lloyd's brokers can present business to Lloyd's underwriters in the underwriting room.

Lloyd's clearance for Minet coincided with the decision of the Department of Trade and Industry not to refer the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The insurance broking sector was largely uninvolved except for Sedgwick, whose shares rose 10p to a midday high at 228p before falling to 225p. Sedgwick has long been talked of as a bid target, with Transamerica, already owner of 39 per cent, the most likely predator.

Capel rates cure

Capel-Cure Myers, the stockbroker, is increasing its commission rates for private client business next week — the first to do so since the crash. While rates for institutional business will remain unchanged, private client commission goes up from 1.5 per cent to 1.65 per cent — in line with most other London firms. CCM's minimum charge of £30 per UK bargain will remain the same, but for overseas transactions it is being increased from £60 to £100. "We reduced our rates to 1.5 per cent, with Big Bang but unfortunately we are now having to raise them again," says Fred Carr, marketing director. Carr says the reduction in trading volume since Black Monday was, however, only a minor consideration. "Because we had already introduced a fee structure for the management of clients' portfolios, we are not as dependent on the level of market activity as some other firms." He says the main reason for the increase is the cost incurred in complying with the SIB's new regulations. "We have had to install a new mainframe computer, more than doubling our capacity, so that we can supply them with sufficient information to prove our capital adequacy once a fortnight." Other firms, more affected by the downturn in volume, may follow suit. "Unless there is a dramatic increase in market volume, a lot of firms will have to stick up rates or go out of business," says Carr.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

SE laughs with relief

At last someone has come up with a bright idea for the Stock Exchange floor, abandoned soon after Big Bang and ever since the butt of much humour over its failure. Wags have suggested it could become an ice rink, restaurant or gymnasium. Tomorrow night it becomes the hub of a nationwide fundraising operation for Comic Relief. One hundred telephone lines have been

installed on the trading floor and volunteers — suitably equipped with red noses — will be taking credit card pledges from BBC viewers. When the SE asked for volunteers, it was apparently overwhelmed by the response; 700 names went into a ballot for the 150 places. Just the sort of over-subscription to having back-fund members of days before the October crash.

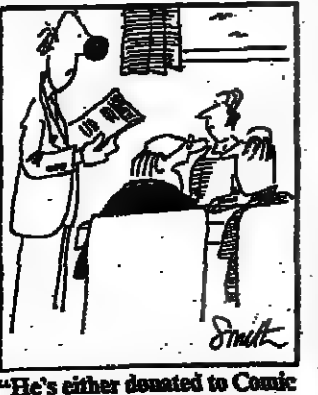
Taxing traffic

As if you did not have enough trouble staying awake at the wheel — you can now do your tax planning while sitting in the traffic jam on your way home from the office. Accountancy firm Coopers & Lybrand has produced a 50-minute cassette called *Tax*

Planning Hints, covering everything from tax shelters to school fees and borrowing money. Says the helpful blurb: "This is an easy way to pick up ideas in a traffic jam or while doing other things at home." An alternative, perhaps, to counting sheep — or City redundancies.

P/e query

It may be taking some former bulls time to get used to an environment where things do not automatically go up. But at BZW, the equity research team, led by Peter Thompson — who, incidentally, is taking early retirement in April as well as getting married — is certainly hammering the bear back home in its latest Equity Working List. It seems it has even had the audacity to tinker with the City's beloved price-earnings ratio. In several places the familiar abbreviation p/e is blithely replaced with p/c. Ouch!



"He's either donated to Comic Relief or the results are worse than we feared!"

Dessert at Payton's

If MORI managing director Bob Worcester, and Robin Wright, of WCRS fame, do not know each other yet, chances are they soon will. They could, in fact, find themselves spending a weekend together. For both have just been sent invitations by the inexpressible Bob Payton — of Chicago Pizza Pie fame — for a half-price weekend at Stapleford Park, his country house hotel near Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. Worcester and Wright are among 250 people — all invited — who backed the original and unsuccessful BES scheme, intended to raise £4 million for the project three years ago. Only £2 million was forthcoming and their money was returned. Undeterred, Payton, who now lives in a wing of Stapleford with his wife, Wendy, eventually raised the money via a placing. Payton says he will regularly be acting as "mine host". "I'll be carrying the luggage upstairs," he says. For those in the City who refused to support him he has nothing but his usual contempt. "One chap from Kleinwort Grieson wrote and said Stapleford wouldn't work. He said he'd eat his letter if he was wrong. I'll now be sending his letter back to him, baked and topped with whipped cream."

● A voluntary departure from Wood Mac. Robert Brand, aged 34, the head of its food manufacturing research team, handed in his notice yesterday. He is off to BZW to lead its food retailing, manufacturing and stores team.

Carol Leonard

Another busy week at Samuel Montagu...

Monday 25 January

Launched £30m Revolving Credit Facility with £30m tender panel for Yorkshire Building Society.
Syndication commenced for \$43m Term Loan for Alexander Proudfoot PLC
Mandated to arrange £50m Syndicated Revolving Loan facility for Cheltenham based homebuilders, Westhams plc

Tuesday 26 January

Signing of £18.5m syndicated loan facility for Carroll Industries Corporation plc

Wednesday 27 January

Appointed arranger, dealer, issuing and paying agent for BET £250m Commercial Paper Programme

Thursday 28 January

Midland Montagu Ventures announce their participation in the leveraged buyout of Fraichard Europe — Europe's largest manufacturer of trailers

Friday 29 January

Syndication commenced on £50m MOF for Fitch Lovell PLC.
Syndication completed on £40m Loan Facility for Humberside based Hughes Food Group PLC

... starting 1988 the way we mean to continue.

Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited
A PART OF MIDLAND MONTAGU, THE INVESTMENT BANKING AND SECURITIES ARM OF MIDLAND BANK GROUP
10 LOWER THAMES STREET LONDON EC3R 6AF TELEPHONE 01-260 9100



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THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4 1988

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

25

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Small losses continue

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 25. Dealings end tomorrow. \$Contango day February 8. Settlement day February 15.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 22)

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or exceeds this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Central TV	Cinema, TV	
2	Mind	Electronics	
3	Transport Dev	Industrial S-Z	
4	Tibury Group	Building, Roads	
5	Anglia Sec	Building, Roads	
6	Thames TV	Cinema, TV	
7	Freddy (Alfred)	Drapery, Stores	
8	Newman Tonic	Building, Roads	
9	IS Pharmacy	Industrial S-Z	
10	Remcon (a)	Industrial L-R	
11	Harland Simon	Electronics	
12	Aurora	Industrial A-D	
13	Nestor-BNA	Industrial L-R	
14	Armedale	Building, Roads	
15	Black (Peter)	Industrial A-D	
16	Tesco (a)	Food	
17	BBA	Industrial A-D	
18	Crest Nicholson	Building, Roads	
19	Allied Lon	Property	
20	Hopkinson	Industrial S-Z	
21	Office Rec Mach	Industrial L-R	
22	Capital Radio	Electronics	
23	Ryl Bt Son (a)	Bank, Discount	
24	Hazlewood Foods	Food	
25	Sterling Ind	Industrial S-Z	
26	Granada (a)	Industrial S-Z	
27	BPB Ind (a)	Building, Roads	
28	Remolki	Chemicals, Plastics	
29	Body Shop	Drapery, Stores	
30	Ultramar (a)	Oil, Gas	
31	Costam	Building, Roads	
32	Treat	Building, Roads	
33	Howard Hidge	Building, Roads	
34	Wardle (Gt Britain)	Industrial L-R	
35	Wear Poteries	Industrial S-Z	
36	Vision	Industrial S-Z	
37	KLP	Paper, Print, Adv	
38	Merlin Int	Property	
39	Quadrant Group	Leisure	
40	Costa Vinylla (a)	Drapery, Stores	
41	Bulmer (H P)	Breweries	
42	Security Serv	Industrial S-Z	
43	T & N (a)	Industrial S-Z	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
101	101.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	0.00	0.00
102	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	0.00	0.00
103	103.00	103.00	103.00	103.00	0.00	0.00
104	104.00	104.00	104.00	104.00	0.00	0.00
105	105.00	105.00	105.00	105.00	0.00	0.00
106	106.00	106.00	106.00	106.00	0.00	0.00
107	107.00	107.00	107.00	107.00	0.00	0.00
108	108.00	108.00	108.00	108.00	0.00	0.00
109	109.00	109.00	109.00	109.00	0.00	0.00
110	110.00	110.00	110.00	110.00	0.00	0.00
111	111.00	111.00	111.00	111.00	0.00	0.00
112	112.00	112.00	112.00	112.00	0.00	0.00
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119	119.00	119.00	119.00	119.00	0.00	0.00
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121	121.00	121.00	121.00	121.00	0.00	0.00
122	122.00	122.00	122.00	122.00	0.00	0.00
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145	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	0.00	0.00
146	146.00	146.00	146.00	146.00	0.00	0.00
147	147.00	147.00	147.00	147.00	0.00	0.00
148	148.00	148.00	148.00	148.00	0.00	0.00
149	149.00	149.00	149.00	149.00	0.00	0.00
150	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00
151	151.00	151.00	151.00	151.00	0.00	0.00
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155	155.00	155.00	155.00	155.00	0.00	0.00
156	156.00	156.00	156.00	156.00	0.00	0.00
157	157.00	157.00	157.00	157.00	0.00	0.00
158	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	0.00	0.00
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164	164.00	164.00	164.00	164.00	0.00	0.00
165	165.00	165.00	165.00	165.00	0.00	0.00
166	166.00	166.00	166.00	166.00	0.00	0.00
167	167.00	167.00	167.00	167.00	0.00	0.00
168	168.00	168.00	168.00	168.00	0.00	0.00
169	169.00	169.00	169.00	169.00	0.00	0.00
170	170.00	170.00	170.00	170.00	0.00	0.00
171	171.00	171.00	171.00	171.00	0.00	0.00
172	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	0.00	0.00
173	173.00	173.00	173.00	173.00	0.00	0.00
174	174.00	174.00	174.00	174.00	0.00	0.00
175	175.00	175.00	175.00	175.00	0.00	0.00
176	176.00	176.00	176.00	176.00	0.00	0.00
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

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150

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

February 4, 1988

Roy Bishko, a 1980s entrepreneur, says hard-selling your own ability achieves career advances and financial rewards

S-U-C-C-E-S-S, that's the way to spell success, S-U-C-C-E-S-S, we won't stand for any less, THE BEST!

Those words above comprise one of the cheers of the Ivy League Columbia University in the United States. The young lady who told me of this graduated from Columbia a few years back, is ambitious and career-orientated and recently made an interesting job change from a big and successful company to a small company that has been very successful in Europe and is only just starting in the United States.

In response to my inquiry as to why she had moved from a seemingly certain excellent career in the big company where she had already made outstanding progress, she said she had joined the smaller company because:

- It too was a proven success and she just knew it would work in the US, having seen it in operation, and
- She wanted to be on the ground floor in a grass-roots start-up business because she felt she had a lot to offer and wanted to give herself the best possible opportunity to maximize her career.

I think this young person is on the right track. She is following success.

I feel that step one in the pursuit of success is to go to university or

some other institution of higher learning, if at all possible. Not only is it wonderful to be educated but it really is a waste not to take advantage of the opportunity if it is there. From a career point of view not only does further education enable you to raise your sights, but you can also get to know your own capabilities better and you can prove to yourself that you can succeed.

But do not deceive yourself into believing you know much when you come out of university. You really have most of the learning in front of you.

In your search for a job, be it the first or if you have decided to change, try to look for:

- A successful business
- One run by successful people
- Try to assess whether your immediate boss has potential himself or herself
- Try to work for a successful person.

Be careful, methodical and logical in your assessment of the company interested in you. Obtain the annual accounts, read up about the products or services, visit, obtain press cuttings. In short, find out as much as you can about the business.

If you succeed in impressing your target company with your knowledge of the business, good



Just stick with the winners, and you will be a winner too

and well, but do not get carried away. Remember your objective. You want to place yourself in a job that has the best potential for you.

If you really try to get the information, you will be amazed how much is available. Do not be intimidated by the information, particularly any financial reports and accounts. Try to understand it by applying logic. Try to assess whether the business is successful and has growth potential. If so, there is more likelihood of potential for you.

Everybody needs luck to maximize a career, but I would like to quote Gary Player, the famous golfer, when he was asked by a journalist to comment on the fact that he had been very lucky to win the United States Open because he had had some fortunate bosses.

"Yes," he said, "I was lucky. It's

a funny thing. The harder I practise, the luckier I seem to get."

Work at finding the best opportunity for yourself. Try to find a job in a business which you find exciting, which grabs your attention and which you feel you could regard as your own. You can listen to advice when assessing the job but above all follow your own instincts. Depend on yourself. If you are good, you will be a good person to depend on.

Now I'll give you an insight into what it is like on the other side of the fence — from the boss's point of view.

Really good capable top people are hard to find — otherwise business would be much easier. Really good bosses of growing businesses are always looking for good people. If you are potentially such a person you are in a stronger

position than you might think. In fact, you could be selling a hot commodity — your own excellence.

It is up to you to sell the idea that you are good to the company of your choice. You have been in training for the selling role all your life — from the time you cried when you wanted milk. You sold that idea all right, otherwise you would not be around right now.

So now you have found a successful company being run by successful people and you have been taken on because they can see you want success, not just a job. Now you must learn from success, you must follow success and later on, if you are really hot stuff, you can initiate success.

Listen and learn from the

people who really play the important role in making the company work. There are reasons the company is successful. Try to find those reasons. Do things according to the proven methods laid down by the company. Do not try to change things to what you think is your better method, just to make a name for yourself.

Once you are familiar with the business and the methods and you are absolutely convinced that a change is necessary, you will need to depend on your judgment to change things which need to be changed, not in your best interests, but in the best interests of the company.

Concern yourself with the success of the business first, and in the right company run by the right people you will create the circumstances for your own personal

success. Try to be motivated by the will to succeed and not merely by the will to achieve financial rewards. Have you ever thought of the reason why multi-millionaire businessmen carry on working and building up their business as opposed to merely leading the good life? Why work at all? In the main it's not greed or lust for the money that drives them. I think it is because they want to create more success.

Avoid politics. If you can keep clear of this pitfall your progress will be smoother. Good bosses hate politics in the business. It is time-consuming and not productive.

Be flexible in your approach to your career, be generous with your time — nothing comes easy — and see if you can reach the point where your efforts really are of significant benefit to the business. At this stage you will have become indispensable and thus successful yourself. Do excellent work and with a bit of luck you will get excellent results personally.

I think the golden rule is: Follow Success!

Roy Bishko is the 44-year-old chairman of Tie Rack, which went public last year. Tie Rack is now expanding both in Britain and overseas, particularly the US, where the company hopes to have 30 shops by the end of this year.

APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481 — APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481

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For this new appointment, the result of growth and acquisition, we invite applications from qualified Accountants (ACA, ACMA, ACCA), aged 25-38 with a minimum of 2 years post qualification experience, either within an international firm of Accountants, large corporate or a major management consultancy. The successful candidate will be based in the European Headquarters and report to the European Controller with responsibility for co-ordinating financial activities in the operating units. Specific responsibilities will include preparation of forecasts and five year plans, further development of management information systems and consolidating divisional accounts. Additional responsibilities will include ensuring operational audit recommendations, internal controls and group policies are adhered to. Up to 25% away travel will be required. Essential qualities are flexibility, drive and the ability to gain the respect and co-operation of the Divisional Controllers in the operating units. Initial salary negotiable £18,000-£23,000 + car, contributory pension, free family medical insurance, free life assurance and assistance with removal expenses if necessary. Applications in strict confidence under reference: FCO152/77, to the Managing Director.

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To apply you must be a single man between 18½ and 32 years of age with at least 2 'A' and 3 'O' levels, including English Language. (Candidates with 5 'O' levels, including English Language, will be considered as long as they have either 3 years service in a United Kingdom Police Force and have passed the qualifying examination for promotion to Sergeant or have held a Commission in HM Armed Forces for not less than two years). If you have a degree, so much the better as you will then qualify for a higher starting salary. You must be over 5'7" tall, physically fit and have good eyesight.

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- Promotion prospects

If you are interested and qualified please write for further details and an application form to the Police Appointment Officer at The Hong Kong Government Office, 6 Grafton Street, London W1X 3LB, quoting ref. TT.

*Candidates should note that the HK\$ is currently linked to the US\$ and its exchange rate with the £ is subject to fluctuation. The current exchange rate is HK\$13.80 = £1.00. Please see your daily newspaper.

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CU Financial Services

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LONDON NW1 c.£23,000

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The Company is a member of the International WEKA Publishing Group, a £60m turnover organisation with operations in eight European countries.

Substantial further growth is planned and consequently our Client can offer a challenging opportunity to manage all aspects of administration and accounting. The position entails the organisation and control of data input, order processing, financial accounting and some aspects of warehousing.

The successful candidate will be aged around 30, with extensive experience of company administration, accounting and computerised systems. A flexible mind, strength of character and sound organisational skills are essential. Knowledge of German or French would be useful.

For further details please telephone James Whelan or Elisabeth Burns on 01-409 2188/01-525 2312. Alternatively write to them at Eiel Accountancy Appointments, 48 Albemarle Street, London W1X 3FE.

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The need now is to appoint the Senior Manager who will develop, guide and grow this embryonic business. Someone who can research and identify market needs and trends, manage acquisitions and 'new build' projects, establish service and profitability levels and then go on to recruit and motivate the managers who will run the new units.

The ideal background for the task is commercial management within independent health care, although a strong senior management track record from any commercial operation could be relevant. Creativity and vision coupled with financial, organisational and business development will be our main selection criteria.

Salary will be negotiable up to around £29,000 and a performance related bonus is for discussion. Other benefits will include a company car, pension and life assurance schemes and free BUPA. Relocation assistance is available where appropriate.

Developing this venture — which is backed by all the resources, experience and commitment of BUPA Health Services — offers a vast challenge and an unusual degree of autonomy. If this matches your ambition, send a CV (quoting ref: T) to: Michael Sykes, Assistant Director, BUPA Health Services Limited, Dolphin Court, Great Turnstile, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC1V 7JU.

BUPA
Care for the Elderly

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The successful candidate, ideally aged 35-45 will have an accountancy or related qualification, be computer orientated, conversant in Company law and capable of leading a team of Manufacturing, Marketing and Product Development Management.

This is a very challenging position and applicants must be able to demonstrate the wide variety of personal talents that this post demands.

An attractive remuneration and package is available. Interested applicants please send C.V. with current remuneration in confidence, to:

THE COMPANY CHAIRMAN, DECOSOL LTD., CLOUGH MILL, SHELF, HALIFAX, WEST YORKSHIRE. HX3 7JT

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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Please send a detailed CV with your daytime telephone number to: Miss Cathy Martucci, Divisional Personnel Manager - Practice Management Services, Arthur Andersen & Co., 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2PS.

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Manager

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In the first instance, please send a full C.V. quoting reference TI to Dennis Outred, Manager (Administration), Lloyds Bank Insurance Services, 1/5 Perryman Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3SE



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You might have this type of experience already.

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The Ideal Candidate: Will have drive, enthusiasm, strong administrative and planning skills, experience with complex committees, experience in public and private sectors, be goal orientated. Existing local knowledge would be a positive advantage.

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For further information please telephone Don MacLean on 0908 678114 during office hours or at home on 0908 315613. Alternatively send your CV to him at Role Management Ltd, Midsummer House, 435 Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes MK9 3BN.

Role Management

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c£25,000 + car - Woking

Crown Financial Management in the forefront of the Financial Services revolution, markets pensions, life products, unit trusts, life bonds and healthcare.

'CROWNFIN' has built up a reputation as one of the most innovative medical products in the market and we are seeking a Sales and Marketing Manager with all the necessary personal skills to lead a dedicated team of sales managers, sales consultants and servicing staff.

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Write with full C.V. to:

Mrs. Julia Skyrme
Personnel Department
Crown Financial Management
Crown House, Crown Square
Woking, Surrey GU21 1XW
Telephone: (04862) 5033

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If your career is at a dead end and you are considering a change of direction, this could be the opportunity you are looking for. Opportunities exist for self assured people with ability and business acumen to train for a career within the financial services industry.

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Knights House 55 Markham Street LONDON W1

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We are an equal opportunities Group. Applications are welcome regardless of sex, marital status, ethnic origin or disability.



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ARE YOU A PEOPLE'S PERSON?

If so we have an ideal job for you. We are seeking a Personnel Officer to work at the Girl Guides Association based in Victoria. If you like to be in at the start of new projects and setting up new systems then this is your opportunity, because in addition to the day to day personnel work, we are embarking on a job evaluation system, job appraisals, training programme and that's just the beginning!

It is an exciting time and providing you have plenty of proven experience, stamina, and caring attitude and above all a sense of humour you will fit in and contribute to a very well worthwhile organisation.

Please send now enclosing a full cv to:

Miss June Nichols,
Director of Personnel and Administration,
Girl Guides Association,
17-19 Buckingham Palace Road,
London SW1W 0PT.

MARKETING MANAGER

We are a well established firm of specialist finance consultants. As part of our successful expansion programme, we are now establishing a consumer finance division. We require a marketing manager (Director Designate) to develop and to head this division. The successful applicant must be self motivated and should have experience in a marketing/sales position. Experience in the Finance or Personal/Consumer Finance industry would be an advantage, but is not essential. He/She should be able to establish a corporate plan and to ensure its successful implementation. The position will offer the right applicant an exciting and rewarding career opportunity.

Please reply to our consultant

Neville A Joseph, FCA
Marlow House, Hale Road, Wendover, Bucks

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Solicitors, Holborn c.£20,000, plus car

A well-established, highly respected and medium-sized firm of Solicitors is looking for a commercially-minded young accountant, preferably qualified, with managerial abilities and of partnership calibre, to act as the financial controller of the firm.

The financial controller will be responsible to the partners for:

- the management of the computerised accounts department and of the other support services of the firm, including personnel administration;
- financial and cash planning and budgeting;
- the provision of management accounts and information;
- assistance with the firm's practice development.

The successful candidate should be capable of contributing as a member of the management team to the firm's continuing development and growth. In due course the financial controller will be appointed partnership secretary.

Applications, giving full details of previous experience and current salary, quoting reference DF/2060, should be sent in complete confidence to P.E. Bailey, at:-

ANNAN IMPEY MORRIS LIMITED

Management Consultants
266 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QX

PRUDENTIAL
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Fast-growing management consultancy in Central London needs experienced office manager to take responsibility for a wide range of duties - from personnel to public relations.

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Chambers

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up to £25,000 + car

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The Purchasing Controller will head up the function, and will take direct responsibility for the purchase of raw materials, packaging and major capital contracts. The job holder will also be required to strike a balance between service, production, investment in inventory and the high quality standards essential to the business.

Candidates in the age range 32-45 will be of graduate level. You must have purchasing experience gained in a food company or companies of high reputation. Fast moving consumer goods experience would be an added advantage. Computer literacy is essential and will embrace concepts such as MRP and related software packages.

This is a new appointment and requires a candidate of fair and drive. The career prospects are excellent. Please apply, enclosing your curriculum vitae and quoting reference number 5002 to Edwina Wright, P-E Inbucon, 34 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH.

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01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY: to £40,000 + Car

Clearly you view your career from a quite advantageous angle.

The issue here is equally far sighted. Are you fortunate enough to possess a broader field of vision in financial management? Then why not consider enhancing your career through Management Consultancy? The variety is there. The challenge is there. So are the rewards.

Our client is a major International Management Consultancy. It enjoys an unrivalled reputation for technical sophistication, performance and creativity in its assignments. Indeed, it has the kind of reputation that attracts complex, stimulating things to do.

Similarly, the work environment stretches and exhilarates, but remains informal and concerned for your individual growth and development.

Right now, you are probably a financial manager in a major UK or multi-national company, used to applying your quick agile mind to a variety of problems. You are likely to be under 40 with a

good first degree balanced by a professional qualification or MBA. Show us a sound record in industrial financial management and we would like to meet you. Your experience might include cash, risk, liability or foreign exchange management. Exposure to investment policy,

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Launch yourself now by writing initially, to us, as Selection Advisers. We will ensure your total confidentiality.

Paul Lichtin, Director,
Thompson Associates Ltd.,
Compton House, 20A Selsdon
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Surrey CR2 6PA.
Please quote Ref 1230.



DO YOU SEE YOUR CAREER IN FINANCE FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE?

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MOVES

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Ability to negotiate at board room level essential, combined with a self motivation which you are able to communicate to others.

The successful candidate, aged about 25-35, will be expected to interview and employ their own sales force, and be prepared to supply plenty of fresh competitive sales approach within a controlled and accountable budgeting and reporting system.

The right person will have present earnings combining salary and incentive packages totalling not less than about

£20,000 + car

Candidates should write giving a full C.V. and showing how they meet our requirements to:

The Managing Director
Square Moves Limited
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Unit 4A
Westfield Rd
Southam, Warwickshire

SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR.

£50,000 p.a.

+ usual benefits.

We are one of the leading business gift companies in the U.K. with a turnover in excess of £5 million. We are now in a position to appoint top management to ensure our further expansion. The successful applicant should be 35 - 45 with at least three years experience in the business gift field.

Applications in writing only with full C.V. to:

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DIRECTOR
PREMIUM PEN PLC
P.O. BOX 120
WEMBLEY,
MIDDLESEX

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Specialised educational charity for children with dyslexia requires a full time PR professional.

Must be a self-starter and able to speak in public and maintain professional contacts. A background in Education would be desirable. Salary negotiable.

Send cv to, or phone,
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Napier Hall, Hide Place,
Vincent Square,
London SW1P 4NJ.
Tel: 931 7237.

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WOULD YOU FIT INTO FINANCE?

Some people fit into it very well. Especially young people who enjoy achieving and achieving fast.

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We're looking for dynamic individuals to join highly professional team providing specialist advice on all aspects of personal and business finance, including taxation, mortgages, pensions and insurance.

We're looking for motivated people who can take advantage of a superb career opportunity and who have the potential to join a management team after an initial period.

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PINNACLE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED AREA REPRESENTATIVES

South East East Anglia
Midlands Merseyside
Yorkshire

Pinnacle Insurance Company Limited, a specialist underwriter in creditor (insolvent) protection insurance has immediate vacancies for representatives to expand the Company's marketing to financial institutions in the above areas.

The successful candidates will have an MBA, initiative and be well organised. Previous insurance or F & A experience would be an advantage, but not essential as training will be given.

First year income of c. £12-14,000 is guaranteed.

Apply in writing, giving full career details:

D.J. Mount,
General Manager,
Pinnacle Insurance Co. Ltd.,
Moorgate House,
312 High Road
London
E14 4JX
Tel: 01-885-3388



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Good sales People required by expanding company in London. Product range includes Mortgages, Pensions, Life Assurance, Unit Trusts and Investment Management. Offering first year earnings potential of £15-225,000. Excellent residential training programme. Early management opportunities for those with aptitude. Age between 25 and 45.

Telephone Lydia Bahilla on:
01 937 2045.

Management Consultants

A.T. Kearney is one of the leading international management consultancies. Our services cover the field of business strategy and organisation, manufacturing, logistics, management information systems and overhead cost management.

Helping industry to confront the challenges of performance and competitiveness is a major element of A.T. Kearney's work in the Manufacturing and Distribution Sectors. In order to maintain our growth in these sectors we require additional consultants to join our Manufacturing and Operations Group in the following areas:

- Just-in-Time Manufacturing
- Logistics
- Manufacturing Systems

Our need is for individuals who can identify and manage radical operational changes. Supported by a structured and systematic approach and proven implementation methodologies, aimed at improved performance, we provide our clients with the competitive edge necessary for survival in today's fast-moving business world. Aged 25 to 35 with a degree in engineering or a related discipline, your current position will be in manufacturing, distribution, materials management or manufacturing systems.

If you meet our exacting requirements, the remuneration package will not be a problem. If you would like to link your success with ours, please contact, quoting reference T4/2

Ray Jewett, Director, or Glyn Hodson, Director
A.T. Kearney Limited, Stockley House,
130 Wilton Road, London, SW1 1LQ.
Telephone: 01-834 6886

Institute of Purchasing and Supply



Head of Materials Management and Logistics (up to £25,000)

As part of the Institute's planned programme of expansion, we are developing considerably the range of services we offer in the fields of Materials Management and Logistics, including Physical Distribution Management and to help us to do this, we need a person probably in his or her early 40s with at least some relevant background knowledge or experience in the purchasing and supply field. However, we would certainly not reject a younger applicant with the necessary experience and personal qualities. A determined committed person is needed with top class communication skills, a pleasant personality and willingness to 'roll up' and help cope with frequently changing priorities.

The task will be to help to deepen the Institute's involvement in these fields, to improve liaison with employers and to expand recruitment; to develop and promote courses, conferences and the Institute's magazines, pamphlets and perhaps textbooks; to help to develop liaison with other professional bodies with trade associations; to service appropriate committees and working parties; and to cooperate harmoniously with the other members of the Institute's sixty plus strong Secretariat.

A good deal of travel will be involved but the post will be based at the Institute's Headquarters which are located in a country house in a pleasant village near Stamford, 14 miles NW of Peterborough. Conditions of work and service are good and assistance will be given with relocation costs. Salary negotiable, probably in the £20 - 25,000 bracket. While we have it in mind to appoint an experienced person, on a fixed term two or three year contract there would be prospect of permanence. A younger applicant could be offered either a fixed term contract or a permanent appointment with pension scheme.

Applications (by letter, there is no form) marked 'Head of Logistics' giving details of current salary and minimum salary required, should be sent to:

Director General
Institute of Purchasing and Supply
Easton House, Easton on the Hill
Stamford, Leics PE9 3NZ

REGIONAL GENERAL MANAGER

c.£39,000 + performance related pay

Oxford Regional Health Authority, is responsible for providing health care services to 2.47 million people living in the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire. Over the years the Region has built up a reputation for excellence and efficiency and is determined that this high level of performance should be maintained.

Following the retirement of Dr E Rosemary Rue as Regional General Manager, the Authority now wishes to recruit a successor. This most important post carries responsibility for the planning, implementation and control of the Authority's performance. Through eight District Health Authorities it manages a combined revenue/capital budget of £530 million and a staff of 48,000. The post holder will provide leadership aimed at stimulating initiative, urgency and vitality in management in the constant search to further improve health care within available resources.

Demonstration of leadership qualities together with a successful record of managing change and improving performance in a large organisation are the essential requirements for this post.

A salary of c.£39,000 is available, together with the opportunity to earn up to 20% performance related pay over 5 years. A higher salary could be paid to an exceptional candidate. The appointment will be made on a short term rolling contract of initially 4 years.

Details are available from Mrs M Davis (0885 64861 ext. 271/286). Applications in the form of a full curriculum vitae should be sent in confidence to the Regional Chairman, Sir Gordon Roberts, CBE, JP, Oxford Regional Health Authority, Old Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LJ, to reach him no later than Friday 26 February 1988. The Chairman would welcome informal discussions with potential applicants. The intention is to interview shortlisted applicants during the week commencing 21 March 1988.

Oxford Regional Health Authority

Training & Development Manager

c. £19,000 + car

Surrey

In the last 4 years my client has more than doubled turnover and has achieved outstanding growth, both at home and in the overseas market, by commitment to keep ahead of the competition through research, and constant upgrading of modern manufacturing techniques.

Key to the continued success of this philosophy is this newly created role, which reports to the Managing Director. Your professional role lies in the ability to identify and analyse training needs from induction, through skills training to management development, and to design and implement strategies ahead of the needs of the Company.

Candidates aged 28+ will be IPM qualified or of graduate calibre.

They will also require 4 years' experience in a training role, preferably with exposure in a computerised manufacturing systems environment. A strong personality will enable you to sell your ideas to senior management and to deliver effective in-house training seminars and courses.

For the future there are definite development opportunities, if you can prove yourself within this dynamic division! Why not call me for an initial discussion, or write to me, Patrick Norris with full CV and salary progression, quoting reference MD1567 at Macmillan Davies, Salisbury House, Bluecoats, Hertford, Herts.

SG14 1PU
Telephone (0992) 532552.

J242131

Macmillan Davies

SENIOR NEGOTIATOR

London - West End

Challenging and rewarding position offered by small Estate Agency with transactive potential. Central London experience in Residential Sales and Development/Investment field essential. Must be mobile, hard working, self-motivated and able to assist in expansion of business. High salary Negotiators need only apply. Ground floor opportunity - excellent prospects for right person. Write in confidence enclosing full CV to: BOX H40.

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requires self motivated male or female sales Agents aged 20-50 for all parts of the British Isles who will be able to earn £25,000-50,000 + per annum (20% commission) for previous experience necessary, training given. To apply please telephone Alan Lewis on Welwyn Garden City (01977) 32005 Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 10.00am and 4.00pm.

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Continued expansion has created the need for a Packaging Sales Executive to cover the South East of England. This new position will ideally be filled by a person with sales experience within the very competitive protein foods industry. Knowledge of sophisticated packaging materials and packaging machines is also essential as is an understanding of processing systems and packaging requirements within these industries.

The company Dole Union Ltd., a subsidiary of Dole Union GmbH offers an extremely competitive package with excellent scope for future progress.

Suitably qualified candidates should write enclosing full C.V. to:
Sales and Marketing Manager,
Dole Union Limited, 34/36 Tanners Drive,
Blakelands, Milton Keynes MK14 5BW.

01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

WE BELIEVE FINANCIAL EXPERTS SHOULD BE VERSATILE.

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A key factor that draws accountants into the Government Accountancy Service is the wide and interesting range of work undertaken by Government Departments. Career development can therefore follow a number of different avenues and for those with good managerial and intellectual skills there are opportunities to move into generalist posts at the core of the policy formation and decision-making processes of Government.

At the present time we have vacancies for Senior Accountants (Grade 7) and Accountants (at Senior Executive Officer and Higher Executive Officer level) in the following departments:

Department of Trade and Industry:**Audit Manager - London**

This grade 7 post has responsibility for the audit of around one fifth of the Department's business including nationalised industries, public companies and the space programme.

Leading by example, you will demonstrate high standards of professional practice, advising and supporting the Branch Head as necessary. Keen motivation, management and computer auditing skills are essential and the ability to train younger members of the team whilst contributing personally to major audits is important.

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Where there is reason to suspect serious and substantial fraud irregularities on business returns, it is the role of the Accountant to undertake appropriate investigations.

As a Grade 7 Accountant in this specialised area, you will work closely with TIM Inspectors of Taxes, advising them on accountancy law and practice as well as examining books and records in the course of the action.

Ministry of Defence Procurement Executive:

Investigative Accountants (SE0 level) in London, Bristol, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Northampton and Southampton

With this branch you are to spend a significant part of your time visiting suppliers to assess their accounting systems and investigate their accounting records. A mature

approach with previous cost and financial accounting experience in commerce, industry or a practising accountant's office is required. Often you will have sole responsibility for the investigation and subsequent negotiation and agreement with the supplier's representative; good communication skills both oral and written are, therefore, essential.

Her Majesty's Stationery Office:**Administrative Manager (SE0 level) Publications Centre - London**

You will be responsible for all accounting functions of a computer-based warehouse and will be responsible for the direction and control of the Accounts Department of 30 people and for credit control. Commercial or professional experience is highly desirable.

Budgets and Accounting Systems (HEO level) - Norwich

You will be involved in the preparation of annual budgets and computer documentation monitoring monthly performance and stock accounts. Computer and audit procedure knowledge would be an advantage.

For all positions candidates should hold one of the following accountancy qualifications: CACA, ICA, CIMA, or CIPFA.

Salaries in London will be in the range: Grade 7 £19,055-£21,815; SE0 £16,580-£19,805; HEO £14,010-£16,905. Lower elsewhere. Starting salary can be above the minimum. Relocation assistance may be available.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 25 February 1988) write to the Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G(1)590.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer.

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Glacier Metal is a specialist manufacturer of plain bearings for private and commercial vehicle engines, bushes and thrust washers for the automotive and other industries.

Our Kilnamock site has recently undergone rationalisation including the relocation of our sales accounts and R & D functions from London and we are now poised to make a further impression in the European and US marketplace.

To further improve our performance and site productivity, we now wish to recruit the following personnel:

METALLURGIST

Qualified to a BSc minimum standard you will have experience in the field of non-ferrous metals, castings and sintering processes.

METAL FINISHING SPECIALIST

The successful applicant will be qualified to BSc level in Chemistry or Metallurgy, have experience of electro-plating techniques and a metal deposition to a fine tolerance of accuracy.

SHOP FLOOR MANAGERS

We have vacancies for Shop Floor Managers qualified to BSc level in Mechanical Engineering or a related discipline. Additionally you must have experience in managing continuous process or volume machining areas.

An excellent salary and benefits package will be negotiated including relocation assistance to this high amenity area of the West of Scotland offering unrivalled housing, medical, educational, social and recreational facilities.

If you feel you have the qualifications and experience to enhance our future plans please write with full details of career to date to:

GLACIER
AUTOMOTIVE
BEARINGS

Mr. J. McDonald, Personnel Manager
Glacier Metal Co. Ltd., Kilnamock
Kilnamock, Co. Wick
Ireland
Tel: 0454 219194

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c £60,000 + Car

'Guiding Business to Success'

We are looking for a rare breed of consultant - those who are able to guide our clients to improve performance not just to deliver consultancy products.

Our expertise includes:

- Organisation Development
- Strategic Planning
- Marketing Planning
- Executive Team Development
- Management Development
- Selection and Assessment

Our clients expect practical, realistic advice and support in implementing their strategies for growth and for competitive position.

Our shared values are customer service, independence, creativity and dedication. To join our team in building a leading Organisation Development practice, you are:

- an accomplished management consultant
- over 35
- entrepreneurial

and with a successful track record in business development. Your communication and consultancy process skills are excellent; naturally you are a graduate/MBA.

Our practice is firmly established and our working environment is exceptional with offices and management centre 15 minutes from Heathrow. If growing a strategic human resource consultancy practice is your ambition, please write in confidence to:

Robin Davies, Director, Crane Davies Limited, The Manor House, Park Road, Stoke Pages, Bucks SL2 4PG

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MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTSAssistant
Company SecretaryA responsible role in a world
leading organisation
to £15,000

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Working with the Company Secretary, you will take particular responsibility for the vetting of commercial contractual arrangements. You'll also ensure the main company's accounts, and those of various subsidiaries, are approved by the board and shareholder in time for the necessary statutory returns to be made.

These and other responsibilities, including deputising for the Company Secretary when necessary, will involve you in regular contact with all internal departments at a senior level, as well as with external auditors, solicitors, banks and Government bodies.

This is an important appointment requiring considerable attention to detail as well as the ability to take an overview where necessary. Self-motivated, able to relate well to other professionals on a thoroughly businesslike basis, you will be either a part or fully qualified Company Secretary already, or have relevant legal training and/or qualifications. In either case you must have practical experience of Company Secretarial work in an organisation of at least medium size, preferably with subsidiaries.

You can look forward to an attractive salary and benefits package including relocation where appropriate.

To apply, please write in confidence enclosing your full CV to:

Rod Smith,
Personnel Manager,
Thorn Lighting,

284 Southbury Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 1TJ.
Tel: 01-363 5533 ext 2101 or 2925.

THORN LIGHTING

Assistant
Information
Officer

The Central Office of Information - the British Government's publicity organisation - has vacancies for Assistant Information Officers to assist in the arrangements for official visitors from overseas. Duties involve escorting and also include assisting with programme planning, arranging functions etc.

Experience in an area of activity similar to this work is highly desirable, together with a good knowledge of current affairs. Good organising ability and the ability to mix at all levels and work under pressure are essential. Experience in publicity or public relations work an advantage. Some irregular hours and weekend working likely.

The salary will be between £8,576 and £11,681 (inclusive of Inner London Weighting) according to age, experience and qualifications.

If successful you will join the Government Information Service with opportunities for career development and promotion in other Government departments and agencies.

For further details and an application form please send a postcard to: Mrs. L. Stewart, HR 622, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU quoting reference no: 481/NC/88. The closing date for completed forms is 22 February 1988.

GOVERNMENT
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SERVICE

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SHARE IN THE GROWTH OF
THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

Save & Prosper is a well established, highly profitable Financial Services Group with interests in unit trusts, pensions, banking and stockbroking. The pensions market is growing rapidly and we are looking to expand our sales team throughout the UK with people who have a track record of success. Experience in sales is not necessary nor is experience in the financial services industry.

We are looking for bright, capable people who will respond to our excellent training and who, as a result, will be able to consider themselves as professional advisers to the many consumers who are vitally interested in pension planning. The successful candidates should have first class communication and interpersonal skills and have been educated to at least 'A' level standard or, ideally, degree level.

We would expect the successful applicants to achieve annual earnings of at least £15,000 and, as remuneration is directly linked to performance, earnings considerably in excess of £15,000 can be expected by those most capable.

For further details please send a full CV in strictest confidence to Arthur Benham, Recruitment Manager, at the address below or telephone him on (0708) 769366. Save & Prosper Group Limited, Hexagon House, 28 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LS.

SAVE &
PROSPER
THE INVESTMENT HOUSEIT NEEDN'T TAKE YOU
YEARS TO MAKE IT

Most people believe earning a large salary takes years of hard slog. We don't. In fact, we prefer to start people at the top - with the knowledge that they can only go higher. If you enjoy travelling, meeting people and have the use of a car and telephone, we'll let you to join us as a Sales Consultant. You will be visiting people by invitation to help them plan and order their perfect kitchen. Every week is a 'pre-appointment' - so there's no 'cold-calling' involved. Success brings confidence, an added bonus is knowing you are supported by powerful national advertising and Europe's Premier Kitchen Company.

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**LOVE SUNSHINE/
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Experienced or novice 240 cc
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International Rent-A-Car
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For Coris + Pons. Senior 30.
Experienced. Clean driving
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01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

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Make the European Connection

c.£13,000 + benefits

The head office-based international marketing unit of Pedigree Petfoods promotes and exports purpose-designed consumer products to Mars units overseas, particularly in Europe.

We are looking for a very bright and enthusiastic young individual to fulfil the vital co-ordinating role at the heart of this fast-moving operation. From the moment the contract is agreed, you will be responsible for the timely and accurate implementation of plans, production and shipping arrangements.

Closely monitoring the entire pre-production cycle, you will ensure the progress of production planning, packaging clearance, market research testing and overseas regulations compliance.

Operating at the centre of a complex and demanding business, you will need the personal credibility and negotiating skills to influence and motivate colleagues at home and abroad.

You must be a graduate with between one and four years' experience in a commercial environment, and you should have a numerate background. Computer literacy is also vital as you will help to develop the information systems which

support and facilitate the work of the unit.

We want to meet people who can point to real achievements in their career to date: persuasive ability, initiative and a meticulous approach are essential to the role; so is poise under pressure. We expect you to expand the scope of the job and there is clear potential for development into management. European language skills would be a distinct advantage.

Salary will be supported by a comprehensive range of non-contributory benefits. Relocation assistance is available for the move to the rural East Midlands - an area which offers many lifestyle advantages.

To find out more, call 0476 64253 (line manned 8am-8pm Mon-Fri). Do NOT send a CV at this stage. Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 10th February 1988.

We welcome applications equally from women and men.

Pedigree
PetfoodsFROM
COLLEGE FINALSTO
CAREER STARTERS

GRADUATES



Once you graduate in June it will be time to use your determination and interpersonal skills as the stepping stone to a career.

Perhaps you already have some idea of the direction in which you would like to go, but perhaps not.

The truth is, that few careers can take you further than chartered accountancy; and no one will give you more help along that path than Coopers & Lybrand.

Our graduate trainees, from all disciplines, build their expertise through a series of increasingly responsible and demanding assignments in the key areas of general practice and taxation.

This expertise is reinforced by our integrated business and management training programme.

You see, unlike most training programmes, our objective goes

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The challenges and rewards are exceptional. But then, so are the graduates who join us at any of our 37 UK offices.

Coopers & Lybrand is much more than one of the UK's leading firms of chartered accountants and management consultants. Worldwide, Coopers & Lybrand (International) is an organisation of 38,500 people with 540 offices in 105 countries.

Make a start to your career by obtaining our brochure and application form. Write to Stephen Boley at the address below, or telephone us on Freephone 0800 282 079.

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London EC4A 4HTU.K. MANAGER/EMPLOYEE
DEVELOPMENT

Circa £25,000 Plus and Car + Benefits

Philip Lait Group of Companies - Harlow, Essex

The Group's product range is primarily furniture - both domestic and commercial - but our interests extend into other business areas, such as electric lighting, glassware, tape and beer.

The Group is now at the start of implementing its planned expansion programme through acquisition and organic growth. This has identified the need for an outstanding individual, suitably qualified, who is dedicated to the concept of professionalism.

The person required, who would exhibit a sense of humour at all times and preferably be a non-smoker, ought to enjoy acting on his/her initiative, be capable of further career progression elsewhere in the Group and demonstrate a successful track record.

Key responsibilities of this position, which would be within the Personnel Department, would include the formulation and implementation of training and development programmes across all grades of staff up to and including Director level.

The reporting line, which is direct to the Group's In-House Solicitor/Company Secretary, reflects the importance placed on this position.

An attractive remuneration package is offered to the suitably qualified/experienced person at circa £25,000 (or more) with BUPA and car.

Preferred age: 28 to 40.

Applications should be submitted in writing with full Curriculum Vitae to arrive no later than 11th February 1988 to:

R.A. Christoforides
Solicitor and Company Secretary
Philip Lait Group of Companies
Lait International House
Horscroft Road
The Finches
HARLOW
Essex CM19 5BX
Telephone: (0279) 29511
Telex: 817354/51142
Facsimile: (0279) 33334

KNOWLEDGE BASED SYSTEMS
SALES MANAGER

The Client

A publicly quoted market leader in Financial Information Systems who, following a recent acquisition, are now superbly placed to exploit the huge potential of supplying commercial AI based solutions to that market.

The Opportunity

A new position, backed by the unrivalled reputation and resources of this major PLC, with a clearly defined career path to Senior Management.

The Qualifications

A graduate, aged 28-35, professional, self starter and creative marketer highly motivated towards career development and capable of building a business. Demonstrable success in the sale of IT products to the Financial Sector. An understanding of Knowledge Based Systems.

The Rewards

A first class remuneration package including base salary of £25,000p.a., exceptional open-ended incentive scheme and the benefits associated with a major PLC.

Please telephone 0784-36431 (Today 11am-4pm or during normal office hours) or 01-567-7544 (Today 11am-4pm or evenings) or send career papers in strictest confidence to: PGA, Debmanc House, 193, London Road, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4HR quoting reference ST3101.

PGA

EXECUTIVE SEARCH
AND SELECTIONAdministration
Manager

Neg c£13,500 London N17

We are an established, engineering company involved in the manufacture and supply of equipment to the packaging industry. Although small in terms of staff (70), we have, in addition to our London operation, manufacturing subsidiaries and sales operations in N. America and Europe, together with a well developed export market.

We are seeking a person for this key managerial position to take the responsibility for all personnel and administrative functions, including some of the duties of company secretary. Applicants aged under 25 are unlikely to have suitable experience which should have involved work in a small industrial or commercial environment. A degree or professional qualification is essential, together with a high level of self confidence and initiative.

Please send CV marked 'Private' to N. Notting Ltd, 67 Gorman Road, London N17 0UE.
Closing date is 12th February, 1988.

PER

Britain's Largest Executive Recruitment Consultancy

Private Label National
Account Executive
Based North-West England

Part of the highly successful Rank Hovis McDougall Group, Menor Bakeries is best known for its range of Mr Kipling and Cadbury's cakes. Our success is well established and continuing growth has created this opportunity within our Private Label Services operation.

We are currently seeking a young sales professional, under 30 years of age with initiative, first class interpersonal skills and a minimum of two years account handling experience. Sales ability is essential along with the necessary attributes to establish a rapport with buyers and key account personnel.

This position will involve negotiation at a senior level and you will be responsible for initiating ideas and following them through from concept to finished product, working in conjunction with a first-class development team. Although important to maximise sales volume, you will be accountable for profit on the products that you control. This position will involve considerable travel and some time away from home.

Along with very real opportunities for progression, we are offering an excellent salary together with a Company Car and other benefits associated with a major blue chip company.

If you feel you can achieve these demanding specifications and wish to contribute to our future success, please write enclosing a comprehensive C.V. to:

Richard Bodams Personnel Controller
Menor Bakeries Limited,
King Edward House,
King Edward Court,
Windsor, Berkshire SL4 7TL.

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KIPLING
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HAVE YOU MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL?

FPS (Management) Ltd, one of the leading firms of financial advisers in the U.K. are looking for 4 TRAINEE MANAGERS

(Aged 24+) to join our successful and expanding operation. Our clients, who are individuals and companies, benefit from our specialist advice on all aspects of personal and business finance including taxation, mortgages, pensions and insurance.

We require professional, ambitious, self-motivated individuals who, after an initial period, will join our management team in our continued expansion.

For further details of this superb opportunity to develop your career within a rapidly expanding company, and to receive the benefits of an exciting and rewarding industry, please contact Keith Burton on 01-438 8511.

KEITH BURTON ON 01-438 8511

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SERVICESEXPERIENCED
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EQUIPMENT SALES EXECUTIVES

Our client, a leading telecommunications company, are at present looking to expand their sales force both in field and office.

We are looking for intelligent, creative and dynamic sales executives to market an exciting new concept in business communications.

You must have at least 1 year sales experience in the telecommunications/equipment environment and be generating substantial sales revenue.

You will now be looking to increase your earnings potential and to take full advantage of the excellent opportunity for a management position.

To display the qualities necessary for a management position, please send your CV to: JTC 23656 - Carfax Management - Express

11017 & 11018: JTC 23656 - Carfax Management - Express
For an immediate interview contact:
Steve Ford 01 523 4980 (Marketing Unit)

City Recruitment Consultants
58 Houndsditch, London, EC3A 7DL

TRAVEL

Join elite operations team in well established up-market travel company.

Are you energetic, enthusiastic, physically fit, over 21 and available preferably from mid-March? Do you have a good social manner, enjoy food and wine, history, art, architecture, flowers and walking across country? Can you cook, drive, map-read and speak Italian, French, Spanish or Portuguese? All expenses plus £70 - £220 per week.

Apply with CV: Tours Personnel T1
Alternative Group
1-3 George Street
Cardiff
CF1 2AZ

EFL INSTRUCTORS
SAUDI ARABIA

Immediately required to undertake a prestigious one year married status renewable contract:

Essential that interested candidates are qualified to R.S.A. standard, have proven Material Production, Language Laboratory or Industrial Needs analysis skills. Ex-pat benefits convey the seniority of these vacancies.

Please telephone & forward C.V. to:

MALLA EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT
334 Euston Road
London NW1 3BG
Tel: 01 387 5331

RECRUITMENT
CONSULTANT
£ negotiable

We are a small, well established consultancy specialising in International Banking and Financial Recruitment. Due to expansion we are seeking additional consultants, either with previous experience or self-motivated people from a commercial background. For further details telephone

01-638 5286

JOSEPH ROWE

11 Blenheim Street, London EC2.

PALL MALL MONEY
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A Subsidiary of the Chase De Vere (Pall Mall) group of companies.

Offers vacancies for trainee consultants. High income potential and real long-term career progression.

For full details contact Lisa Powell on:
01 930 7242
or send C.V. to:
125 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5EA.

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TAPE
REPRESENTATIVE

Required for the Northern Home Counties

We are a highly successful Company with a wide range of exciting products. If you have a proven track record and would like to join a team of dedicated sales persons to sell Magenta Tapes to Retailers, Dealers and Distributors, then apply today.

Great Salary, Good Target Bonus, Good Company Bonus, Company Car plus Career Progression.

Suitable Experienced Applicants residing in Birmingham, Leicester and Coventry areas should apply in writing with Curriculum Vitae to:

C.J. Mitchell, Personnel Manager

JVC
JVC Ltd, JVC House, 12 Priestly Way 4
Elcworth Trading Estate, Staples Corner, London NW2 7EA

01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

GENERAL SECRETARY CPAS

CPAS is an Evangelical Anglican Society which exists to facilitate evangelism by its services to local churches. The Church Pastoral Aid Society has a modern, comprehensive approach to parish needs, from the nomination and support of clergy to the servicing of young people's work. CPAS has learned over 152 years not to be afraid of change.

The new General Secretary will promote and lead the Society's work. Candidates may be ordained or lay, between mid-thirties and mid-fifties, with theological training and experience of parochial ministry. As well as having evangelical convictions, they should have a vision for the Anglican Church's ministry to the nation.

Applications and requests for further information to:-

Sir Timothy Hoare, 10 Belitha Villas, London N1 1PD.

TELEPHONE SALES EXECUTIVES

THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES

Due to internal promotions we are looking for bright, dynamic, hardworking, enthusiastic and determined people to join our successful Classified Department.

If you are aged between 20 and 30, well educated, have some commercial experience, can type and are looking for a challenging career within an exciting environment, then we can offer you full training, £9,450 p.a. (reviewed after 3 months) + approximately £3,000 commission, BUPA and generous holiday entitlement.

To apply telephone Sue Powell or Gill Sage on 01-822 9343 during office hours

ENGINEERING

Mechanical, Process Control & Services Engineers

Help us redefine the frontiers of Production Performance

Heinz is an international food manufacturer with an enviable reputation for excellence. Our current investment programme, at our two manufacturing sites in North West London and Wigan, is probably the most ambitious in UK food manufacture and will provide us with the very latest in production systems. You will join our Engineering Department located at Hayes Park, Middlesex and become a member of one of the multi-disciplinary teams responsible for spearheading the creation of high speed fully integrated production lines for our famous brands. You will be accountable for the technical, time, cost and resource management aspects of your assigned projects. Close liaison with the manufacturing sites is required to ensure minimum downtime and encourage maximum commitment.

Qualified to degree level in an engineering discipline, probably mechanical, chemical or electrical/control, you should have at least 3 years' successful project design/services/maintenance or commissioning experience. Whilst a background in the food, drink or pharmaceuticals industry is an advantage, it is not vital. An attractive salary will be negotiated to reflect ability and experience and will not be a limiting factor. Excellent benefits include 27 days' holiday and generous relocation assistance where appropriate.

If you would like to invest your future in Heinz then please write with a detailed C.V. to Mr. R. V. Dwyer, H.J. Heinz Co. Ltd., Hayes Park, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 8AL.

Heinz

A MOVE WHERE IT COUNTS

ADVERTISING W1 £22,24,000.

Young agency, floating on USM next year, is looking for a qualified Financial Controller to run a five person accounting department. Some service sector experience preferred. Ref: AS138.

RETAIL W LONDON £20,000 + CAR

A management accountant, with financial planning experience, is needed to develop forecasting and budgeting techniques with this retail sector company. Exciting opportunity within a company whose turnover will double in 1988. Ref: PB201

For further details on these vacancies call 01 638 1711.

MERVYN DINNEN ASSOCIATES FINANCIAL RECRUITMENT

TRAINEE UNDERWRITER

Marvellous opportunity if you have either O-level Maths and Geography or A-levels in the same subjects. 2 jobs to train as underwriters with a company at Lloyd's.

If you have a son or daughter who have left school and who are as yet undecided on a career, this chance should not be missed. Good perks and excellent prospects. GSC Recruitment 623 3216.

JUNIOR ASSISTANT

Required in Family Jewellers in The Burlington Arcade, London W1. Typing, selling, general shop duties, modelling jewellery etc. Salary £5,750. Phone 01 493 0739

SALES REPRESENTATIVES £15,000 OTE

Hall & Watts Ltd, Britain's largest and longest-established supplier of surveying equipment, is looking to expand its existing sales force nationwide. The company is an exclusive distributor for a number of the world's leading manufacturers of specialist equipment and has a network of branches throughout the country.

To further develop technical and sales support for their customers, Hall & Watts are looking for people aged between 25 and 35 who are self-motivated, with an attractive personality and are able to negotiate at all levels.

The successful applicants will work with support from local branch offices, selling and calling on customers who range from small specialist companies to internationally known contractors. Whilst specialist qualifications are not required, experience of selling to the construction industry would be a significant benefit.

You will receive a high basic salary with an open commission, a company car and normal expenses etc. If you are ambitious and determined to succeed, then we would like to hear from you. Please write to:

Geoff Tibbles
National Sales Manager
Hall & Watts Ltd
266 Hatfield Road
St Albans
Herts AL1 4UN

HALL WATTS

BOOK KEEPER/ FINANCIAL MANAGER PART TIME IN NORTH KENSINGTON

Qualified and creative person required to handle accounts (IBM Lotus/Map systems) PAYE and records in cheerful architects office.

Tel: 968 7575

FINE ART AUCTIONEERS

We are an international Fine Art Auctioneers currently seeking a trainee for our Oriental Works of Art Department.

The position involves, under supervision, cataloguing, appraisal and valuation of Oriental Art work, as well as research, interpretation of foreign research, dealing with foreign clients and travel.

The successful applicant should be aged under 45, educated to University standard, be fluent in English, French and Vietnamese and have practical experience of handling Oriental Ceramics and Works of Art.

Salary £9,000. Please apply with C.V. to Box No. 824.

GENERAL ASSISTANT (30-40)

For busy service firm near Baker Street. Responsible person capable of handling a wide range of duties. 9.30am - 5.30pm. Tel: 01 733 6679.

RESEARCH PLACE

Research Place, London, is looking for a highly motivated and enthusiastic person to join our busy office. Local knowledge essential. Salary £11,000.

ORIGINAL OPPORTUNITY

Scheduled to make a travel organisation in N.W. London with a proven track record. The position involves sales and administration. The position is varied and involves considerable travel and weekend work. The applicant must be based in N.W. London area, should be familiar with office procedures and have a strong sales background. Salary negotiable. Call JMK on 01-228 2056. Salary + commission + car.

NORTHWOOD Estate Agents

require 3 additional residential sales representatives to join our highly successful office. In consideration of the successful applicant, we will provide a salary of £10,000 per annum plus commission and benefits. Should you wish to "get away" from an office based job, enjoy independence and be rewarded well for your own achievements, we still wish to work with a successful person. Call JMK on 01-228 2056. Salary + commission + car.

HARROW HEALTH AUTHORITY

Northwick Park Hospital & Clinical Research Centre, Watford Road, Harrow, Middx, HA1 3UJ. Tel: 01 884 5311.

FINANCE AND INFORMATION MANAGER

- ACUTE, ELDERLY & SCIENTIFIC SERVICES UNIT

Promotion of the current post-holder opens up an exciting opportunity for an experienced Management Accountant. The Unit has a budget of £25m., an extensive management agenda, which includes expansion and rationalisation of clinical services, and the development of computer-based information services.

To meet these challenges you should be able to demonstrate an ability to manage change under pressure, have effective interpersonal skills, and should possess a recognised CQAB qualification.

The post will be graded according to the profile of the individual appointed, between £15,081 and £22,403 p.a. including London Weighting. Relocation allowance available.

Informal discussion is welcomed. An appointment with the Unit General Manager, Mike Conner and the District Finance & Systems Development Manager, John Clifford can be arranged on extension 2938/2793, following which, details of the post will be sent to you inviting application. NHS experience is desirable but not essential.

Closing date for applications: 18.2.88.

SALES EXECUTIVE

Trainees & Experienced Basic + Commission + Car.

Do you have previous sales experience or are you a bright trainee looking for your first sales position? If so you can enjoy the benefits of working for this highly successful company selling office furniture/equipment and ancillary items to corporate accounts. Full product and sales training will be given and first year earnings are expected to exceed £15,000.

To find out more telephone:

Michele Lines or Brian Lines-Smith
Tel: 01 493-7055
LSL Recruitment
Standbrook House
2/5 Old Bond Street
London W1X 3TB

Rosenthal

Prestigious manufacturer of porcelain and crystal has vacancies for Managers / Managers in their Concession Shops of leading department stores in London and Manchester. Successful candidates must have good proven retail experience, self-motivation and enthusiasm to advance in career. Telephone or CV to:

Rosenthal Studio Haus,
5-7 Brompton Road
London SW1 1ED
Tel: 01-584 1069
or 01-584 0683

SALES AND PR PERSON

Required for Dental Supply Company. Must be dynamic, have a good background in selling and be interested in growing with the company. Please ring Margaret Silverthorne on 01-905 2444

INTERNATIONAL ANTIQUE DEALERS

Assistant required to deal with the company's clients and antiques. A lively interest in our business is necessary. In first instance please phone

J NARES
01 560 7979

SUN LIFE unit services

HAVE YOUR INCOME AND CAREER PROSPECTS BEEN AFFECTED BY BLACK MONDAY? There is a highly paid career available, where you control your destiny and not have someone else dictate your job prospects.

Call 01-242 2222

Ask for IAN KIRKWOOD who will explain why a career with Sun Life Unit Services might appeal to you.

Accountancy Personnel Placing Accountants first

PROSPECTS IN PROPERTY W1 £18,000

Large, well established property development company requires a capable, enthusiastic accountant to prepare financial and management accounts. Candidates should either be nearly qualified or have company secretarial/taxation experience. Spreadsheet knowledge an advantage. Prospects for advancement are excellent, so applicants should demonstrate the desire to progress. Benefits include BUPA and a company car.

Ref: J3203 79 New Bond Street, W1 01 493 3813.

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER WC1 £23,000 + CAR

As a result of successful corporate planning and a highly acquisitive approach, this communication group have enjoyed rapid growth. Consequently, there is a need for a strongly motivated professional to become involved in a broad range of functions including systems appraisal, together with management and financial accounts. An excellent career move offering generous benefits including five weeks holiday, BUPA and profit share.

Ref: C9780 307/308 High Holborn, WC1 01 404 4561

BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY

Policy and Planning Unit SENIOR ANALYST (FINANCIAL PLANNING)

Starting salary £14,000 pa

The successful applicant will be closely involved in the medium and longer term financial planning of Severn Trent and will undertake financial, economic and strategic studies to develop our policies in relation to central government.

Candidates should be qualified accountants with well developed financial and economic planning skills. They should also be familiar with the analysis of company accounts and the use of computer based financial modelling packages and statistical techniques.

The post is based at our Regional Headquarters on the eastern outskirts of Birmingham.

Application forms quoting reference DP011 and further details are available from the Head of Manpower Services, Severn-Trent Water, Abelson House, 2297 Coventry Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 3PU.

Telephone: 021 743 4222, ext. 2151/2077.

Severn Trent is an equal opportunity employer. Closing date 12 February 1988.

City Banking-Marketing Finance To £16,500

This leading and successful Bank, with a culture geared towards rewarding achievement, offers an excellent opportunity for a part qualified Accountant (CIMA/CACA) approaching their final exams.

Providing regular ad hoc reports, interpreting data and investigating problem areas for the Marketing Department, you will also be involved in business planning, forecasting and systems development. Ref: 7591.

Please call Libby Geddes PERSONNEL RESOURCES 75 Grays Inn Road, WC1X 8US. TEL: 01-242 6321.

KOSTER MARSHALL-CLARKE

MARKETING, ADVERTISING AND SALES PROMOTION

Young, ambitious and dynamic Financial Controller Salary £20k + Bonus etc.

The Company is 5 years old, growing rapidly and very ambitious. Operating in the Sales Promotion Consultancy field, we are already one of the UK's Top 15 Agencies. This new position is regarded as being vital to the success of the next stage in our development.

Applicants should be Chartered Accountants, with 1-2 years qualified experience. However, apart from ability, it is very important that the appointed person has flair and a strong personality. It is expected that the Financial Controller will take up a Board position within 18 months.

Reporting to the Board and attending Board Meetings, your responsibilities will include:

- Overall financial control within the Company
- Preparing budgets, projections, management accounts, internal audits, year end accounts and cash-flow reports
- Reviewing and improving the Company's financial systems including computerisation and credit control
- Liaison with lawyers, acquisitions, property management

Please reply with full CV to: Geoff Marshall-Clarke, Northfield, Gravel Path, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 2PF

Senior/ Manager for TOP 8 Firm Finalists - £18,000 + study Qualified - £neg + benefits

For ambitious Chartered or Certified Accountants who already have 3-4 years exp. within the profession, there is an opportunity to develop your career with an international practice. The two positions available involve much of the client's time together with special investigations work. The successful applicants will have the ability (and interest) to work closely with top level personnel and in some instances be able to provide management advice to those clients in a set up situation.

In return the firm offers attractive CPE courses with the option of studying for an M.A. qualification, with the opportunity to travel abroad and within the U.K.

To arrange an interview contact Kathryn Ball PERSONNEL RESOURCES 75 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8US Tel: 01 242 6321

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DEPUTY RIDES
MAINTENANCE MAN

RM

HORIZONS

A guide to
career development

Company benefits come in from beyond the fringe

The level of your bank balance is governed not only by what you do, but by what your company does.

Add to that the increasing importance of the fringe benefit and, as Peter Robinson, the Salary Research Officer of Inbucon, the management consultancy, says: "Salaries do differ by industrial groups. If we take a sales director in a company with a £50 million turnover, his salary will be £31,000. But if you take the metal manufacturing industry, that salary will be only £27,000, while food and drink comes out at £31,620, and chemicals at £32,860.

Not only are we seeing the classical industries receiving a lower percentage, overall, but in any case, salaries are lower.

"If you have a moveable skill," says Mr Robinson, "the tendency will be to move, putting more pressure on those industries, and starting a whole new series of spirals. In the meantime, what once might have been called the hidden extras are becoming increasingly conspicuous.

"I don't believe the company car is any longer a fringe benefit at executive level; it is almost part of the basic package. Once your salary is more than £18,000, it's highly likely that you will have a company car."

UK executives, according to Inbucon, are becoming more aware of the value of fringe benefits, and companies are beginning to adopt an American innovation known as the "cafeteria" approach. This means giving the executive the option of turning down one part of the fringe benefits package in favour of having another part enhanced.

"Prominent among fringe benefits now on offer are bonus payments and company share option schemes. Today, says Inbucon, nearly two thirds of the UK's managing directors are enjoying some form of bonus payment on top of their basic salary.

While this demonstrates a change over the past five years, a far more radical progression is the emergence of company share option schemes.

In 1982 one in four executives had CSOs schemes available to them. Today the figure is one in two, and Inbucon sees nothing to suggest that this progression will decline. They found the three most popular CSO schemes now operative in the UK to be the executive share option scheme, save as you earn, and profit share.

Peter Robinson says: "It seems obvious that bonuses do not have an identifiable pattern, yet share options do. We believe that the answer is a simple one. Larger organizations have a greater

ability to award share options, and most of these tend to be in the publicly-owned, publicly-quoted sector.

"Smaller organizations still tend to be privately owned and only partially quoted, therefore there is less ability to award CSOs schemes. There is evidence, however, that some private organizations, on seeing that the equity option is a strong fringe benefit, are discussing the concept of CSOs with remuneration consultants."

Will the profile now shown by fringe benefits in the sphere of executive remuneration remain at its present level? Ken Schwarz, Inbucon's director of Remuneration Services, said: "I can't see it remaining static. What everyone

Coveted perks are no longer a hidden part of job remuneration, but are being paraded openly

as an integral part of the salary package, says Simon Walsh

needs to be aware of is that we are living in a very competitive environment."

Following the down turn in the stock market, there may well be a change in the popularity of the share schemes, and the availability of bonuses. Peter Robinson pointed out that while there was a swing downwards, there would always be a strong exchange of shares in companies that are doing well.

"I think, therefore, that while there will be a shading down of the CSOs in a bear, as opposed to a bull market, it will continue to have a cachet as a long-term incentive to stay with a company and do well for it."

Given the differentials in remuneration between industries, what are the qualifications to aim for in further education? And is there a change in approach to the negotiation of salaries?

Ken Schwarz said: "What is most important to a graduate is to get a foot on the rung of the ladder to a career path. Therefore, they need to trade off money now against an employer who can give them a better and wider experience."

"I think that one of the tragedies is that because money is tight, there are fewer apprenticeships around, so where are the skilled personnel of the future going to come from? We need people who are

prepared to invest in their own future careers, perhaps by taking a lower salary but with much more job satisfaction.

"Graduates now entering industry or commerce are likely to change jobs three or four times before they reach their fifties, for all sorts of reasons, like takeovers, divestments, mergers and closures. There will be casualties of the system — or a wider choice to move from one employer to another.

"If you happen to be a chemist, you may enter industry as such, but you might end up as a planner, in marketing, a sales director, or a managing director who has to handle all these things.

"So how are you to know, when you mount the first rung, where you will finish? I started as a mechanical engineer, and now I'm working in remuneration services. I see a connection in that I like working with graphs and figures, but it's the only connection.

"As to basing skill choice on the potential remuneration of different industries, I think we can only forecast the growth areas where things are likely to happen over the next five to 10 years.

"Certainly we have seen a move away from the manufacturing to the service industries, and as we know, retailing has become a sophisticated business and is doing extremely well. Look at some of the traditional retailers today — Woolworths, organizations like Comet and B&Q, fast-growing and well up the market sector. All these organizations require highly professional management — just think of the data processing and systems back-up," he said.

"Take, in particular, the large food retailers. The stock is perishable and has to reach the outlets on time, and there are so many outlets throughout the country that the stock control has to be very sophisticated. These are all, I think, exciting areas for graduates to go into."

He said there was much talk about the City, about Yuppies and Porches, but it is really about a very small group of people who have the inbuilt ability to fire from the hip and hit the target. "If you go from small to very high earnings, where you can buy anything you want within reason, it takes a very strong personality not to be influenced by some of the goodies that are lying around," he said.

"Very often people are living at a very high rate, not just in their work, but outside of it also, and they do burn out very early on. It may be exciting in the gaming sense, it may be exciting in the pickings available, but is that what you want for the rest of your life?"

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Continued from page 33

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TIMES CLASSIFIED

BOWLS

Richards is a tower of strength on fast greens

From David Rhys Jones, Auckland

Not counting rain and played ends, 40,000 bowls have been rolled over the first four days of the BNZ (Bank of New Zealand) sixth world bowls championships here, and with temperatures well into the eighties and games lasting often more than four and a half hours, the players of 23 countries took a well-deserved rest yesterday.

The marked difference in speed between British and New Zealand greens accounts for the time it takes to complete a match. Each bowl takes longer to reach its destination, and dead ends are frequent on the hard and polished Cotnam wood surface which is unique to New Zealand.

Cotnam was introduced as a bowling surface by accident when grass greens in New Zealand were invaded by the weed, and green keepers bowed to the inevitable. It is a broad-leaved plant whose leaves curl up in the heat and flatten when wet. Greens are always machine-rolled between sessions, run flat and require a very wide-swinging arc.

George Adrain is the one Briton who admits that the greens are too fast for his liking. "It is impossible to control the draw shot and the yard-on, so I've been forced into playing with weight more than I would have liked," he said yesterday, before spending the rest of day at afloat with his Scottish team-

mates on Auckland harbour.

For all that Adrain and his partner, Grant Knox, are only two points behind the section leaders, New Zealand, in the pairs event, and, like the other British teams, have adapted to the exacting conditions far more successfully than anyone expected.

Wynne Richards, for example, whose fluid, uninhibited style has experts questioning the wisdom of his selection, has been a tower of strength in the English triple, drawing with finesse and driving with precision as John Bell's middle man.

England and Scotland have a good chance of qualifying for Saturday's finals in both pairs and triples, while Ireland and Wales are still very much in contention in the pairs.

Local hostesses (after seven sessions)

Pairs Section A				
	P	W	D	L
New Zealand	7	0	1	2
Wales	7	0	1	2
Scotland	7	0	1	2
Ireland	7	0	1	2
England	7	0	1	2
USA	7	0	1	2
Canada	7	0	1	2
Section B				
	P	W	D	L
England	7	0	1	2
New Zealand	7	0	1	2
USA	7	0	1	2
Scotland	7	0	1	2
Wales	7	0	1	2
Ireland	7	0	1	2
England	7	0	1	2
New Zealand	7	0	1	2
USA	7	0	1	2
Scotland	7	0	1	2
Wales	7	0	1	2
Ireland	7	0	1	2

FISHING

Lords debate poaching

By Conrad Voss Bark

The licensing of salmon dealers, part of the Government's plan to reduce illegal fishing, may be introduced by the end of this year. This was announced in a House of Lords debate recently by the Scottish Office Minister, Lord Sanderson. He had to defend the Government from strong criticism by Lord Moran, who initiated the debate, Lord Home, and others for what they called the "desperately slow implementation of plans to deal with poaching."

Lord Moran said that three baillies in Wales were shot at last year by poachers and one gang took a quarter of a ton of salmon from the Conwy in a night.

Lord Sanderson said that prosecutions for the illegal possession of salmon had made an encouraging start. On river pollution he said this must be kept in perspective. We were doing better than some other countries.

Lord Mason complained about the cruel deaths caused by monofilament gill nets to fish, seals and diving birds. Lord Sanderson said that gill nets were illegal in Scotland and partially banned in Wales but could still be used in England. The English, he said, were "keeping the matter under review."

Whips are essential for jockeys

From Mr David Pipe
Sir, There has been much discussion in the Press recently concerning jockeys' use of the whip and I would like to take up the points raised in Mr Harris's letter (January 28).

There is no justification for saying that it is "not a part of the racing public benefit" for a rider to repeat the offence a week after being fined for excessive and improper use of the whip. Rarely do jockeys come before the stewards for doing the same thing again so soon, but if it does happen they are heavily fined or otherwise punished.

On the other hand it is important to know that no jockey has ever been fined for not using his whip. "Not making sufficient effort" means that a jockey has not ridden out with his best horse or jockey and is best possible placing. There is no requirement or implication that he should have used his whip.

Properly used, a whip can encourage a horse, keep it straight or prevent it savagely another horse or jockey and is an essential part of a rider's equipment.

The Jockey Club is currently reviewing its guidance to jockeys and local stewards on use of the whip and it will be consulting the relevant associations in due course.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PIPE,
Jockey Club,
42 Portman Square, W1,
February 1.

From Mrs M. E. Alexander
Sir, Your Racing Correspondent's article (January 13) and Mr Campbell Lennie's letter (January 21) regarding misuse of the whip were of great interest.

Let us get our priorities right. Horses are for people, not the other way round. There is no cruelty in the use of the whip in racing, though occasionally over-using it may be counter-productive.

The "tail pumping in pain with each cut of the whip" may

look bad, but mostly it is just an idiosyncrasy. Some horses swish their tails as a habit.

Mares and fillies more than colts and geldings, especially when they are, or about to come into, season. Sometimes, it is true, a swishing tail is a sign of resentment by a horse which does not care for racing. Otherwise anything but serious misuse of the whip is incidental, soon forgotten and generally not repeated.

The marks referred to also look much worse than they are, except in some cases which are effectively dealt with by the authorities and with which no jockey will willingly identify.

Whatever the argument, and Mr Lennie is to be honoured for his humane outlook, whips are an absolute necessity, and the horses while racing must have their chance. If they can win without being hit so much the better. But for a jockey to lose a race which he could have won but for fear of the consequences of over-enthusiastic use of the whip is nonsensical and highly detrimental to racing in all its aspects.

Not is it even of practical use to the horse who will have forgotten all about it long before he gets home. Racehorses are tough, competitive animals. They are not easily hurt. Compassion is at the end of their working lives. As long as they are able to race they are all right.

I am Sir, your obedient servant,
MARYGOLD ALEXANDER,
The Racehorses Welfare Organisation,
Castle Bank,
Charley, Stafford,
January 28.

Not claiming he was distracted by the shadow of a fielder on the deep square leg boundary? Not realizing he was being watched by some of the great batsmen of the world who might well have simply smiled and been dismissed in such a way?

Whatever the reason, by today's standards it just wasn't cricket - or was it? Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CLAUGHTON,
Widens, 29 Maidstone Road,
Ashford, Kent,
January 31.

Broad discussion

From Mr Michael Claughton
Sir, The £500 fine imposed on Chris Broad for knocking down his wicket provokes the following questions. Was it administered because of bad sportsmanship? Unpleasant behaviour on the field of play? Abuse of equipment (one Duncan Fearnley bat)? Abuse of opponent's equipment (one Australian stump)? Failure to stand his ground and wait for the umpire to signal a no-ball? Inability to follow his captain's benign and tactical example? Only scoring 139 in 74 hours?

Foreign XI

From Mr Dennis M. Griffiths
Sir, I feel sure that the following XI of "foreign-born" English Test captains would be more than a match for the side just engaged in Sydney: Sir Ian Duleep Singh (West Indies); C. F. Walters (Wales); M. C. Cowdrey (India); E. R. Dexter (Italy); A. R. Lewis (Wales); D. R. Jardine (India); M. H. Denness (Scotland); A. W. Greig (South Africa);

Lord Harris (West Indies); Sir George Allen (Australia); F. R. Brown (Peru).

Two points arise, though: Who leads the side? Who keeps wicket? Yours sincerely,
D. M. GRIFFITHS,
11 South Park View,
Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamham,
January 28.

SPORTS LETTERS

Disabled funding

From Mr Don Gilbert
Sir, I would like to add two points to Andrew Longmore's excellent article (January 29) on some of the potential British competitors for the Paralympics in Seoul in October.

First, no mention is made of the problems experienced in trying to raise the £400,000 it will cost to send the team.

It is financially quite separate from the "able-bodied" Olympics and has to attract its own resources.

As sport for the disabled receives so little media coverage, it does not attract anything like the same degree of sponsorship - for example, how many world sports followers realized at the time that the British team of disabled came very close to the top of the medal-hits in 1984?

If the money does not materialize there is a serious risk that some likely medal-winners may not be able to go.

The other point of interest is that all three of the potential "Paralympians" featured in your article were from the same sports club for the disabled, the Rushmore Harriers, based at Farnborough, Hampshire.

They also have nine club colleagues who are also in the official British Paralympic training squads across a variety of sports. Very few sports clubs, for the able-bodied or the disabled, can boast such a concentration of talent.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. GILBERT,
Orkney House,
Gold Drive,
Camberley,
Surrey,
January 29.

Experimental squash

From Mr Stuart Davenport
Sir, I refer to the End Column of January 26 and discuss the possible "Americanization" of squash. A few points of clarification are necessary to put this rather blinkered and insular view into perspective.

Our 221 members are drawn from 32 nations and represent the pinnacle of the world playing population of 10 million. These supreme athletes are much fitter, faster and more skilful than the average club player. Their ability to retrieve most shots can sometimes produce a long and tedious game which is not necessarily the stuff to attract sponsors to the sport.

The membership and our 48 event promoters around the world are being surveyed about possible rule changes which the board of this association considers will favour the skilful player rather than the retriever. We believe that such changes will attract more spectators and the media to our growing world circuit.

Our constant travels expose us to many influences and ideas from a variety of cultures and other successful sports. Therefore the "American influence", or for that matter, the "British influence", is only a small part of the overall picture.

Last year, we initiated experimental rule changes in three world grand prize events in Paris, Toronto and New York. The experiments will continue in 1988 so that members are fully acquainted with the changes in these events where world ranking points are at stake. We firmly believe that experiments, by realizing their very nature, have uncertain outcomes, and we should not preempt the results. It was this association that was instrumental in persuading

manufacturers to produce a "slow" ball but even this option does not have eventual limitations. On the other hand, a drop of 5cm in the height of the tin may well be another way of achieving the same end.

It is important to remember that the proposed changes are for the professional game only. There is no need for thousands of courts to be altered or millions of players to change their playing habits. Such over-reaction would be a nonsense. However, future generations of players may wish to play the "professional way" and would then effect the necessary changes.

Of world circuit is the shop window of the sport and also a major source of income for the professional player. We must constantly be on our guard against complacency and against the danger of relying on custom and tradition to secure our future. Such short-sightedness would be detrimental to the professional game, which will only survive if it continues to attract sponsors, promoters, spectators and the media. Obviously rule changes will only be made if they improve our chances of achieving this objective.

As in all forms of human endeavour, both innovation and complacency carry an element of risk and that is why we are taking time to experiment and consult. We wish to retain the best of our tradition, our business and we certainly retain our confidence that we lack responsibility and integrity. Yours sincerely,
STUART DAVENPORT,
International Squash Players Association,
93 Cathedral Road,
Cardiff,
February 1.

Cricketing diary

From Mr Vernon Royle
Sir, The article by John Woodcock (January 27) prompted me to look at the diary of my grandfather (and namesake), who was a member of Lord Harris's team of 1878-79. Of February 8, 1879, he writes:

"They followed on about 4 o'clock, shortly afterwards Murdoch gave me a run out by Couthard our umpire upon which a most disgraceful scene occurred. The 'Larrikins' rushed ground. Harris refused to change our umpire as we considered the decision a good one. Play was consequently stopped for the day as the crowd would not let us go on. During the row Harris was struck with a stick but not hurt. It was a most disgraceful affair and took its toll from some of the 'better' class in the Pavilion."

I remember well him telling the story of this "disgraceful incident". Yours faithfully,
VERNON ROYLE,
39 Alvestone Road, SW6,
January 28.

Restrictive practice

From Mr Robert Vicary
Sir, The decision by the Test and County Cricket Board to restrict tickets for the Benson and Hedges Cup and NatWest Bank Trophy finals to first-class county cricket club members only reveals a remarkable lack of insight.

At a time when the game is suffering from a lack of interest among schools and a marked shortage of young players coming into the game at an early age, it seems regrettable that those wishing to go to Lord's to see two of our greatest cricket contests cannot do so by simply applying for tickets by post.

If you walk round Lord's at the games in question there are always a large number of very enthusiastic boy supporters. I have one in my family, only eight years old but utterly dedicated to cricket. England and Mike Gatting. Can he now not go to Lord's by simply

Players pairing off

From Miss Victoria L. Latham
Sir, In reply to Major J. D. Sumner's letter (January 28) asking why Andrew Castle and Jeremy Bates were not paired together in the men's doubles at the Australian Open tennis championships, Warren Jones, the British coach, has suggested that it would be better for Bates and Castle to choose different partners.

Certainly great success was achieved by this change which can only give confidence to both men. Surely that can only be to the good for British tennis. Yours faithfully,
VICTORIA L. LATHAM,
66 Church Road,
Aldershot,
Hampshire.

Five-a-side rules

From Mr John Gray
Sir, A few concerned organizers have got together to help promote five-a-side football by trying to standardize the rules. If any of your readers has a set of rules or guidelines, could they send me to see?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRAY,
61 Lancaster,
Glebe Village,
Washington, Tyne and Wear.

Court of Appeal

Law Report February 4 1988

Queen's Bench Division

Summary dismissal was not justified

Dietman v Brent London Borough Council

Before Lord Justice May, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Stocker.
[Judgment February 3]

A social worker who "by her non-intervention in flawed social work" had been "grossly negligent" had not been grossly negligent within the meaning of that expression in her employment contract, and even if she had been could not, under the terms of that contract, have been dismissed summarily without a disciplinary hearing.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment delivered by Lord Justice Balcombe, who gave the judgment for the court, in *Dietman v Brent London Borough Council*, from Mr Justice Hodgson on or December 19, 1986 had given judgment for the plaintiff, Mrs Diane Scherr Dietman, in her action for wrongful dismissal in respect of her summary dismissal by the defendant on December 4, 1985 (1987) ICR 737.

Mr Michael Bell, QC and Mr Richard McManus for the council; Mr John Hendy, QC and Mr Jeremy McMullen for Mrs Dietman.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said that in July 1984 Jasmine Beckford had been killed by her stepfather while she was in the care of the defendant. The plaintiff had been the supervisor of the social worker responsible for Jasmine.

A panel of inquiry appointed by the defendant in its report "A Child in Trust" had concluded that "by her non-intervention in flawed social work [the plaintiff] was grossly negligent." On receipt of the report the defendant had purported to dismiss her summarily, without holding a disciplinary hearing, and the defendant's disciplinary procedure had been dismissed.

Her statement of particulars issued under section 1 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 stated, *inter alia*, her notice entitlement and by paragraph 7 provided: "The [defendant] has a disciplinary procedure... Any breach of disciplinary rules will render you liable to disciplinary action, which will normally include immediate suspension followed by dismissal, or instant dismissal, for offences of gross misconduct unless there are mitigating circumstances..."

"Gross misconduct is misconduct of such a nature that the [defendant] is justified in no longer tolerating the continued presence at the place of work of the employee who commits an offence of gross misconduct."

"Examples of offences of gross misconduct which have led to the dismissal of local authority employees include: unauthorized removal of the [defendant's] property; offences of dishonesty; sexual offences; sexual misconduct at work."

fighting; physical assault; fabrication of time sheets, substance and expenses claims, etc; theft; malicious damage to property. This list is neither exhaustive, nor exhaustive, and in addition there may be other offences of a similar gravity which would constitute gross misconduct..."

The disciplinary procedure provided, by clause 5: "Certain types of gross misconduct may lead to a recommendation to the [defendant] for instant dismissal following a possible period of suspension from duty."

The construction of those provisions advanced by the plaintiff was that any alleged breach of a disciplinary rule would lead to disciplinary action; if it amounted to gross misconduct that would normally mean immediate suspension pending the outcome of the disciplinary hearing; and in the case of gross misconduct the hearing could recommend to the defendant instant dismissal without notice or ordinary dismissal on notice.

His Lordship thought that construction to be preferable to that contended for by the defendant, that it was entitled to dismiss instantly for gross misconduct without an hearing, for seven reasons.

1 Paragraph 7 of the statement of particulars incorporated the defendant's disciplinary procedure, which provided for a formal disciplinary meeting in the case of "more serious offences". There was no express exception to that provision in the case of the most serious offences, that is, gross misconduct.

2 If the disciplinary procedure, including the requirement for a formal disciplinary meeting for serious offences, had not been intended to apply to offences of gross misconduct, it was curious that that was not included as one of the exceptions listed in clause 12 of the procedure.

3 The defendant's construction required the division of disciplinary offences into three classes: (a) minor, where the potential penalty was at most a verbal warning and no disciplinary meeting was necessary; (b) more serious offences, where the potential penalty was first a written warning, followed by a second written warning, followed ultimately by possible dismissal, and where a formal disciplinary meeting was necessary; and (c) gross misconduct, where the potential penalties were suspension, dismissal or even instant dismissal, but where no disciplinary meeting would be necessary.

That would mean that the more serious the offence the less procedural protection the employee would have. There would have to be compelling reasons to persuade his Lordship that a construction which led to such perverse consequences was correct.

4 The second sentence of paragraph 7 ended with the words

"unless there are mitigating circumstances". The disciplinary interview would accord the employee an opportunity to put forward any mitigation.

If the defendant's construction were correct the employee would have to mitigate would be at the appeal hearing, after the decision to dismiss had been taken. Such a right was only of limited value.

5 The punctuation of the second sentence of paragraph 7 suggested that both "immediate suspension" and "instant dismissal" referred to "offences of gross misconduct".

The dichotomy between "dismissal" and "instant dismissal" for offences of gross misconduct was clearly apparent. The former meant dismissal without notice; the latter dismissal without notice, but the word "instant" read in that sense did not entitle the defendant to dispense with the need for a disciplinary hearing.

6 That construction was consistent with clause 5 of the disciplinary procedure, which recommended suspension would only be made after the disciplinary hearing had been held.

7 The defendant's construction of the second sentence of paragraph 7, that disciplinary action for any breach of disciplinary rules would normally include immediate suspension followed by dismissal, was wholly inconsistent with the disciplinary procedure and contrary to common sense.

His Lordship said that the construction for which the plaintiff contended was coherent and fair and consistent with the relevant ACAS Code of Practice; it was more likely than not the disciplinary procedure incorporated in the plaintiff's contract had been intended to reflect the standards of fairness recommended by the ACAS code.

Reinsurers entitled to be indemnified

Boeden and Others v Henssey

Payments made by reinsurers under a "50 per cent/50 per cent" claims agreement in a policy of reinsurance (a Lloyd's underwriter representing Syndicate 317) from Mr Adrian Hamilton, QC, who, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division on June 26, 1987, have dismissed his applications for a stay under section 4 of the Arbitration Act 1950 and had given summary judgment for the plaintiff underwriters (each suing as representative of a Lloyd's syndicate) were the reinsurers of a war risks policy, their claims under policies of reinsurance whereby Syndicate 317 had agreed to indemnify them for, *inter alia*, losses sustained under policies of reinsurance covering war risks.

Accordingly, his Lordship agreed with the judge that, on the proper construction of the contract, the defendant had not been entitled summarily to dismiss the plaintiff without first acceding her a hearing under the disciplinary procedure.

For the purposes of this action the plaintiff accepted the panel's decision of gross negligence. His Lordship would not go so far as the judge and said that gross negligence could never constitute gross misconduct under the contract; it was necessary to look closely at the conduct which the panel had categorized as gross negligence to determine whether it constituted gross misconduct.

Although the examples of gross misconduct in paragraph 7 were not necessarily criminal, they all involved an element of intention on the part of the employee or conduct which was either dishonest or disruptive.

The gross negligence of the plaintiff, in failing to fail to perform properly her professional duties, was not an offence of that type. It might very well, if established, and after all relevant mitigations had been taken into account, have justified the council in dismissing her with no notice, but it was not gross misconduct within the definition of that expression as it appeared in the contract.

The appeal had raised purely technical issues on the construction of the contract, and it was neither necessary nor desirable for the court to express views on the merits, or lack of them, in relation either to the plaintiff's performance of her duties or as to the actions of the defendant and its officers in summarily dismissing her.

Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice May agreed.

Solicitors: Mr Stephen Foster, Wembley; Wilford McBain, Stockwell.

Opren judge excludes right of appeal

Reall v Eli Lilly and Others

Before Mr Justice Hirst
[Judgment February 3]

Decisions in the arbitrations to be heard in the Opren litigation would be final and there would be no right of appeal. Mr Justice Hirst stated in a judgment in the Queen's Bench in open court after a hearing in chambers.

Mr David Calcutt, QC and Mr David Westcott for the plaintiff; Mr John Melville Williams, QC for the plaintiffs represented by the lead firms; Mr Jonathan Payford, QC and Mr Andrew Payne for the Eli Lilly defendants; Mr Justin Fenwick for the government defendants.

MR JUSTICE HIRST said that he had announced on December 9, 1987 the offer of settlement made by Eli Lilly which comprised a global sum to be allocated by the six lead firms by reference to the serious cases of each individual plaintiff's injury as described in his or her medical report, based on a recent review of the proper measure of damages by counsel.

A number of undecided plaintiffs had sought separate advice as to the terms of the offer and Mr Calcutt had made an application before his Lordship to clarify the principles and procedures to be applied in the arbitration process.

Since it was necessary to be mindful of the need for a fair and impartial arbitration to be arrived at with reasonable speed, the arbitration would be final and it would be inappropriate to incorporate any right of appeal.

The exclusion of a right of appeal was by no means unusual in arbitration agreements, and in any case in modern arbitration law there was no appeal on questions of fact, such as would be the case in the Opren arbitration.

The procedure for the arbitrations would be as follows:
1 His Lordship would conduct each arbitration, subject to being given assistance from another High Court judge.
2 The proceedings would be in private.
3 The arbitration would be open

to all Opren plaintiffs who had joined in the offer and also to those who had either rejected the offer of settlement or those who had been accepted of a payment into court, or of acceptance of an offer of a specific sum of money in satisfaction of their claim, or by application for interim payment under the general offer.

4 The arbitrations would be conducted on the basis of written submissions and evidence upon which a short reasoned award would be made. Any plaintiff dissatisfied with the award would have the right to an oral hearing after which a further reasoned award would follow.

5 The assessment of damages would be made in accordance with common law principles subject to a deduction of a third to take account of an agreed discount for settlement.

6 Only if the figure so arrived at was significantly different from the amount already assessed would the new figure be submitted.

7 There would be no right of appeal.

8 There would be no order as to costs.

9 Any plaintiff wishing to avail himself of the arbitration procedure should lodge no later than March 25, 1988 the documents listed in 10 below.

10 The documents should comprise all medical reports on which the plaintiff would rely, all medical notes whether relied upon or not, proofs of evidence, statements of case identifying the issues to be decided, all documents provided by the assessor.

11 An *amicus curiae* would be appointed.

12 It would always be open to seek special directions in individual cases.

When all the arbitrations were completed, his Lordship would make a statement summarizing the outcome, with no reference to either individual cases or individual awards.

Solicitors: Clarke Willmott & Clarke; Pannone Napier; Davies Arnold & Cooper; Treasury Solicitor.

Defendant disclosed old offences to jury

Regina v Anderson

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Drake and Mr Justice Henry
[Judgment February 1]

Where a defendant, in the course of her defence, had committed a number of offences there was no reason why she should not have been asked to cross-examine whether or not she had been wanted by the police (for an unspecified reason) as a positive answer would not reveal anything to the jury.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing the appeal of Martina Elizabeth Anderson against her conviction on June 11, 1986 at the Central Criminal Court (Mr Justice Boreham and a jury) of conspiring to cause explosions likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property on which she had been sentenced to imprisonment for life.

Section 1 of the Criminal Evidence Act 1988 provides: "(1) A person charged and being a witness in pursuance of this Act may be asked any question in cross-examination notwithstanding that it would tend to criminate him as to the offence charged."

"(1) A person charged and being a witness in pursuance of this

Arctic Stream can sparkle

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

Arctic Stream, a good steeple-chaser two seasons ago when he won four of his 10 races, is tipped to win the recalcitrant Handicap Chase at Lingfield Park today.

To fancy the Fulke Walwyn trained nine-year-old as much as I do, it is necessary to put the clock back two years because he was beaten 40 lengths in his only race last season.

Then, after an absence of 15 months during which time he was treated for leg trouble, Arctic Stream could only finish last of five at Ascot three weeks ago when he was again beaten almost as far.

As he started third favourite at 7-2 that day, his performance could have been viewed as disappointing. However, it was a tough race

and it transpired that he simply became a bit leg-weary after his long absence.

With that race under his belt, Arctic Stream is now expected to recapture his form of two seasons ago when he won at Cheltenham (twice), Kempton and Wincanton.

Racing is set to return today after three blank days due to inspection planned at either Lingfield or Towcester. Sandown Park, due to start a two-day meeting tomorrow, hold a pre-race inspection at Sandown today but no problems are anticipated. Prospects for tomorrow's other fixture at Kelso are good.

Otherwise, it could easily pay to follow Reg Akers' unbeaten hurdler, Malmain and Alton Time.

Malmain, who was successful over 2½ miles at Fontwell last month, is pre-

ferred to Silver Ocean and Badger for the Holye Novices' Hurdle.

Stable companion Auction Time, my selection for the Heddons Novices' Hurdle, showed a marked liking for the course and the current state of the going last year when he won there twice on the Flat.

More recently he was successful at Fontwell where he showed the sort of resolution that will be imperative if he is to succeed again this time.

At Towcester there is bound to be a considerable amount of support for local trainer Terry Casey's two fancied runners, Over The Road and Duhallow Boy, especially as they have won there before.

My feeling is that Duhallow Boy will be particularly hard

to beat in the Yardley Gobion Handicap Chase, having shown so much promise at Doncaster last time out when he finished third in the race won by the subsequent Cheltenham winner Lucky Rascal.

However, I doubt whether either Over The Road or Duhallow will manage to give 7lb to Pollen Bee in the Novices' Hurdle. My choice is 10lb to the good of the third horse, Lingfield last time out when he was just held at bay by the useful Woodgate.

Having finished second to Voyant at Cheltenham in December, High Performance can be expected to give a good account of himself in the Mill House Handicap Hurdle, while Serious Man is a serious selection for the first division of the Marston Novices' Hurdle.

Clore's assets frozen

The racing assets of leading racehorse owner Alan Clore have been frozen. Best known in racing circles as the owner of Triptych, Clore suffered heavy losses in the stock market crash and, as a result, the future of his racing interests had been in some doubt.

A statement from Clore's creditors said the owner had created a "security interest" over certain bloodstock in favour of a syndicate of banks. "The security interest in effect, froze Alan Clore's ownership of these assets. Thus Mr Clore is currently not at liberty to dispose of the assets in any way without the consent of the above banks."

"The bloodstock affected by this security interest includes the mare Triptych."

Income derived from the bloodstock, such as prize-money and stud fees are also covered.



Burrough Hill Lad, without a race for two years, is one of three National entries trained by Jenny Pittman, who won the race in 1983 with Corbiere. The others are Stearby and Smith's Man

Powerful Irish challenge for Grand National

By George Rae

Two horses who have yet to run this season, Leam Ar Agaidh and The Thinker, provided the early talking points after yesterday's announcement of the entries for the Seagram-sponsored Grand National at Liverpool on April 9.

Both were immediately included among the market leaders in all bookies' outlets after neither has an outing at hand. "Leam Ar Agaidh has no entries before Cheltenham," a spokesman for Stan Mellor's stable said of the 11-year-old who gave Guy Lando a such a magnificent ride when third to Maori Venture in the race last year.

"Everything has been geared to Liverpool and he will have two races at most before the National," he added.

Arthur Stephenson is also a potential contender with The Thinker, the winner of last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup, and has yet to name a re-appearance race for him.

West Tip, the 1985 National winner and beaten favourite in last year's race, is again a popular choice, as is Nigel Tinkler's ex-Irish, Darkover, the property of the successful Full Circle syndicate.

Another Gold Cup winning entrant, Burrough Hill Lad, has been off the course since winning at Sandown two years ago, while a powerful 14-strong Irish challenge includes Anthony Aspin, a controversial figure in last season's National, and Britany Boy, winner of the Irish equivalent.

The entry figure of 105 is

the highest since 1971.

Point-to-point by Brian Beel

Because of the differences in distribution of point-to-point across the country, it is most unlikely that a northern-based rider will ever emulate Guy Curnard as national champion.

When Curnard topped the list on six separate occasions, he averaged 16 winners a season. Any rider from the north of England or Scotland now considers himself fortunate to reach double figures.

Last year, Nigel Tutty headed the list in Yorkshire with 10, the same total as Steven Brookshaw, the champion in the north-west, while David Macgarratt, who rode the most winners in Scotland and Northumberland, had only eight.

Not only are there fewer opportunities for riders but the approach to the sport in the north is different. Few owners have more than a couple of horses and these are usually trained at home. In the south it is not uncommon for a dozen horses to be trained in one location for different owners and for one rider to be associated with that stable.

The northern point-to-point enthusiast's first consideration when purchasing a hunter, is that he should be good at his job in the hunting field. In the south the bias is more towards racing, with five-figure sums often paid for horses that have already shown some ability on National Hunt courses but are unproven following books.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that in the pre-season betting on the men's riding championship, the shortest price for a northern-based rider is the 20-1 against Tutty. And this is far from generous.

The bookmakers are certainly taking no chances with their prices. David Nayler-Leyland and Mike Felton are offered at Evens and 6-4 respectively with

Philip Schofield at 3-1. These odds combine to give a 15 per cent over-round, even though there will be in excess of 2,000 other riders in the field.

Last season Nayler-Leyland had to throw in the towel in mid-season after a series of misfortunes, but with nine horses, all in training with Henrietta Knight, he hopes to wrest the title away from Felton. Schofield, with a strong hand in the south-west, will ensure that it is not a two-horse race.

Alison Darv, women's champion for the last two seasons, often misses meetings because the flags if a good hunter chaser is available. Nevertheless she is odds-on to retain her title.

Although her broken leg is now mended, she has lost five of the horses that contributed a total of 13 of her 17 successes last year.

However, Mendip Express, four times a winner in 1987, remains in the yard of Dick Bainbridge, for whom she rides, and the stable has high hopes for newcomers Allen Lad, Chameleon Girl, Dewspiry Boy and Osman Express, all with NH experience. It is difficult to see who can prevent her completing a title treble.

With limited mounts, Jenny Pidgeon and Amanda Harwood may not pose much of a threat, even though they are next on the bookmakers' lists. Lucy Crow, with some new horses available, should have her best season since 1985 when she rode 13 winners, while Lucy Gibbon looks sure to dominate again in East Anglia.

An outsider who could do well is "Tick" Saunders. Not only has she outstanding ability, she will get plenty of mounts from her sister-in-law's stable.

Finally, a reminder that the season starts on Saturday with meetings at Witton Castle, Higham and Tweseldown.

Curley to sponsor race

Controversial trainer-gambler Barney Curley is to become a sponsor for the first time.

He is putting £6,000 towards prize-money for the Fly Your Own Flag Victor Loderum fund at Haydock Park on March 5.

Curley will also give a £100 cash prize to one of the

Romanet outlines European festival

By Michael Seely

A festival of European racing is being jointly planned by the French, British and Irish racing authorities with the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp on Sunday, October 2 as its climax in an attempt to rival the glory of Breeders' Cup day in the United States.

At a press conference in Portman Square yesterday, Lord Epsom, the dynamic and far-sighted director-general of the Société d'Enseignement, the body that rules French racing, announced not only a dramatic increase in the value of the Arc, Europe's richest race, and of the other events to be run at Weekend Cips, but also a boost to all the French two-year-old pattern races.

"We've never got an unrivalled opportunity to promote racing as a spectacle," he said. "There's the festival of British racing at Ascot on September 24. Then you have the October sales and the National Hunt Festival. Then after the Cips weekend at Longchamp, there are the Goffs sales at Kill and the first running of the Carbis Millon at Phoenix Park on October 31."

Weekend Cips, with its nine pattern races over the two days, will carry a total of £1.5 million in added prize money, which will make it the most valuable meeting ever staged in Europe. The four days of the Arc in 1987, by comparison, offered prize-money of £1,234,000.

On the Saturday, the prize-money has been increased by 78 per cent and on the Sunday 31 per cent. The 25 per cent boost to the Arc gives it a total value of 8.5 million francs (about £850,000).

At the age of 46, Romanet's inspired leadership of the French turf sees him making a bold bid to restore the country's racing to the position it held in 1967, by comparison, offered prize-money of £1,234,000.

Another innovation in France will be the opening of 160 betting outlets in the morning. These will have restaurants and other facilities and will be open in the afternoon.

Unlike in Britain, the Société, together with the Pari-Mutuel Urbain (the French Tote), will have controlling rights over satellite television to betting shops.

"We are not only planning to screen racing live in shops in the morning, but also in the afternoon. We are also negotiating for the right to send our programmes to Germany and other countries," Romanet said.

Romanet also discussed the controversial subject of medication, which was recently high-topped by the French authorities. He said that he was planning to introduce a system of "controlled medication" which would allow horses to be treated with painkillers and anti-inflammatories, but not with substances that could affect their performance.

"The whole question has to be thoroughly looked into," he said. "It is not only to do with America, it's also about accepted levels of substances that can be tolerated. For example you had all this trouble over theophylline over here."

"There is going to be a high level international conference at Lexington in April. The various states can't be made to comply, whatever is decided, as the American Jockey Club has the authority over them. And they do have their problems such as having 10 races a day on dirt. But it will mean that commercial pressure will start to be asserted."

Favourites sink in Naas mire

Naas again lived up to its unhappy nickname of "the punters' graveyard" yesterday as a series of favourites failed in the bottomless ground (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

Two of the day's major races, Redundant and Merry Miners, both held winning leads coming to the last furlong only to be overtaken by the underdogs.

The odd-on Redundant, six lengths clear turning for home, looked the sure winner of the Doncaster Hurdle but the challenge of Tubercum proved too much for him.

So heavy was going that the third, Dorian Dorian, actually finished a distance behind Redundant.

Earlier in the afternoon the Mullins family took the EBF Mares' Maiden Hurdle with Lorraine.

Naas results

Going: heavy
1.45 (2m 3f) 1. Lorraine (P) 10/1, 2. Dorian Dorian (P) 10/1, 3. Redundant (P) 10/1, 4. Merry Miners (P) 10/1, 5. Tubercum (P) 10/1, 6. Dorian Dorian (P) 10/1, 7. Lorraine (P) 10/1, 8. Merry Miners (P) 10/1, 9. Tubercum (P) 10/1, 10. Dorian Dorian (P) 10/1, 11. Lorraine (P) 10/1, 12. Merry Miners (P) 10/1, 13. Tubercum (P) 10/1, 14. Dorian Dorian (P) 10/1, 15. Lorraine (P) 10/1, 16. Merry Miners (P) 10/1, 17. Tubercum (P) 10/1, 18. Dorian Dorian (P) 10/1, 19. Lorraine (P) 10/1, 20. Merry Miners (P) 10/1, 21. Tubercum (P) 10/1, 22. Dorian Dorian (P) 10/1, 23. Lorraine (P) 10/1, 24. Merry Miners (P) 10/1, 25. Tubercum (P) 10/1, 26. Dorian Dorian (P) 10/1, 27. Lorraine (P) 10/1, 28. Merry Miners (P) 10/1, 29. Tubercum (P) 10/1, 30. Dorian Dorian (P) 10/1, 31. Lorraine (P) 10/1, 32. Merry Miners (P) 10/1, 33. Tubercum (P) 10/1, 34. Dorian Dorian (P) 10/1, 35. Lorraine (P) 10/1, 36. Merry Miners (P) 10/1, 37. Tubercum (P) 10/1, 38. Dorian Dorian (P) 10/1, 39. Lorraine (P) 10/1, 40. 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England don their pyjamas again for another lullaby

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Melbourne

England's cricketers boarded a flight from Sydney to Melbourne yesterday with the air of clock-watching commuters bound for another routine day at the office. An international match with Australia was only 24 hours ahead, yet there was a studied absence of excitement or anticipation.

Such indifference might well be heretical to many who are trapped amid the vagaries of an English winter, playing cricket in the sunshine seems every much a case of the other man's grass being greener. The attitude, however, is by no means an isolated sulk, more a spreading sense of playing under duress, which is a clear health warning for the game as a whole.

Today's match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground constitutes the 32nd one-day international England have played since January of last year, and the tenth against Australia. If the novelty has worn off, the sense of occasion diminished, the players deserve pity rather than condemnation.

It may be true that they protest about the shortness of the season placed upon them (at odd times of year when no cricket is scheduled some of the most vociferous moans will actively seek matches to top up their bank balance) but there can no longer be room to doubt that the cluttered itineraries are eroding their standards and their enthusiasm.

Even allowing for the fact that influenza had left him a little grumpy, Mike Gatting made a memorably sad remark at the end of the Sydney Test match of Tuesday. He was asked if he felt sorry for

the Australians, whose preparation had been a lengthy one-day series that ended only 10 days ago. "Frankly," the England captain said, "I feel for anyone who has to play the amount of cricket that we do these days."

Gatting is evidently heading down the same line as David Gower, who decided last summer that he needed a rest from touring if he was ever again going to play cricket with a

fresh mind and a glad heart. So disenchanted had he become that when someone asked him if he might still be prepared to play in the World Cup, Gower replied: "Certainly not — anyway, it is only a group of one-day matches masquerading as a World Cup."

Gower is far from alone among modern players in regarding the endless appetite of publicists and administrators for one-day series. Many will have shuddered yesterday at the suggestion in one Australian newspaper that, next time the country has a birthday to celebrate, it should forget about Test cricket and instead stage a sequence of limited-over games. Now that would be something different.

No one in Australia has been interviewed more often in the past few days than Bill O'Reilly and the great old leg spinner, who has retired from the press box, has a crisp and

ready answer whenever he is asked what is wrong with the modern game. "One-day cricket," he says. "Pyjama stuff."

O'Reilly is an extremist when it comes to tradition and always has been. The alternative view, a defence mounted with substantial evidence, is that no matter the depth of this disapproval, the top players are obliged to go on turning out in limited-over games if they want cricket to remain financially stable enough to support their comfortable standards of living.

This may largely be true but it is rather like a child being confronted with unpleasant medicine. He may be forced to swallow it but nothing can make him enjoy it and there is no guarantee it will do him any good.

It is the last factor that is a cause for anxiety in cricket. Australia's surprising short-comings over the first three days of the Bicentennial Test were due to a surfeit of one-day cricket. "We had got into such a groove of playing the overs game that we were in too much of a hurry," he explained.

Border's argument is that the one-day games should not be scheduled too close to Test matches. For one England player in particular today's uninspiring encounter could hardly have been scheduled at a worse time. John Emburey, having taken only one wicket in helpful conditions at Sydney, is genuinely distressed about his spin bowling.

He believes he has seldom bowled worse for England and he feels there is something technically amiss. He does not argue with the theory that he is bowling too fast and flat, much as he would successfully operate in one-day cricket. If this is indeed what has gone wrong, the reason is plain to see. Emburey, alone among England players, has played in all 31 limited-over internationals in the past 13 months and you sense he could have happily done without the 32nd.

England, while scotching any suggestion that they were treating the game as low priority, planned to include all five members of their squad who did not play in Sydney. While Emburey was ruled out by his knee injury, the inference could be drawn that the strongest available team has not necessarily been picked.

The BCCI also passed an order directing that any player who was injured in Sydney or refused to play for India would not be considered for selection for a year from the date of refusal.

The ban means that Vengsarkar will miss domestic matches and the Asia Cup, Dhaka from February 22 to 28.

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Sheffield Wednesday player recovers from horrific injury

A year ago today Ian Knight, the Sheffield Wednesday defender, was the victim of a chilling tackle by Coventry's Chester City, during a fourth round FA Cup replay at Hillsborough. The tackle broke his right leg in seven places and when Alan Smith, the club physiotherapist, was told his club-boss was sticking out the back of his neck.

Smith, who has 16 years of experience, described it as "the worst fracture there has ever been in the game" and Knight, aged 24, has undergone a 12-month test of his mettle and ambition which required him to learn to walk again with a leg half an inch shorter.

It is a tribute to his indomitable spirit that Knight has come through all this and expects to resume a career that has already brought him two caps at England under-21 level. This perseverant young man can still remain bright and optimistic with the horror and the pain of his injury still crystal clear in his mind.

"When he first hit me the pain struck me but very quickly I went into shock and all I wanted to do was to go to sleep and blot it out," he said yesterday. "As Alan was immobilising the leg I felt myself drifting off and in the dressing-room I was given morphine but at the hospital they wanted to keep me awake until the surgeon could see the X-rays and decide what to do."

It took two hours for the doctors to painstakingly halt the bleeding and to remove the bone and in the 10 days in the recovery ward Knight contemplated the worst. "Nobody actually said I was going to lose my leg but I lay awake at night thinking all sorts of things over in my mind and that is when the pain in the leg was at its worst."

Another 10 weeks in a full length plaster cast followed but Smith was already drawing up a blueprint to ease Knight back to full fitness. "While apart from the leg, which was appalling, we had such damage to the tissue around the knee, the ligaments and nerves," Smith said. "That knowing the sort of leg he is I set targets while never asking him to do too much and gradually, back he is, he has recovered."

Knight can now do everything except tackle and he will not be allowed any physical contact until the final X-ray in July. Yesterday he joined Worthington, the club captain, and his wife, once his partner in the middle of the defence, in a 45-minute fitness test, which was passed with commendable ease.

"After the initial stages when I did feel the worst I got back into the gym every day, and we were inducted to their pool to run about after me and things started to take shape," Knight said. "The other players, and particularly Alan, have been terrific and always managed to lift me when I was down."

Smith has put together a video of the injury, starting with pictures of the original tackle, and following Knight through the agony he has suffered. "There was no known data on this sort of injury, it was so bad," he said. "Should anyone else have the misfortune to suffer anything similar at least they will have something to work on."

Martin Searby



The long road back: Knight's daily run around Hillsborough

"When I was learning to walk again he suddenly said, 'Give me that bloody stick', and I had a terrible time tottering up and down the gym. But it worked and now it is a case of walking for the heart of the bone to grow strong enough to take the impact of a tackle."

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Martin Searby

Aberdeen stakes are high for Cash and Curren

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

David James, managing director of the Aberdeen Great Exhibition and Conference Centre, expects a "near capacity" crowd in the 4,173-seat arena for the exhibition match between Pat Cash and Kevin Curren on February 13. The total cost of the promotion will exceed £100,000. Tickets are selling at £15, £20, and £25.

Cash, the Wimbledon champion, and Curren, who beat Stefan Edberg, John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors in straight sets to reach the 1985 final, will be the attractions on a bill that will also feature the martial arts and a demonstration of short tennis, a miniature form of the game designed for the very young.

It is not immediately obvious why two renowned players should hammer away at each other, in February, at a venue between the Grampians and the North Sea. But Cash and Curren will be well paid for what has been advertised as a £50,000 winner-takes-all match (in view of the hefty guarantees, read that as winner-takes-most).

The reason behind the enterprise is pragmatic. "We happen to think that Aberdeen is

Scotland's best venue for this," James said yesterday. "We have a superb facility — and we want everybody to know about it."

We may be sure that the public will have a lot of fun during an evening that will revive memories of Suzanne Lenglen's professional appearances on a variety of Scottish and English football grounds where she won 50 per cent of her matches.

Such lucrative off-duty functions are reserved for the elite, who make their reputations on the grand prize circuit. But the grand prize itself represents their allegiance with a variety of houses. As for the critics, these are mostly tennis officials or salaried journalists who show no reluctance to make money on the side — while condemning players for doing the same.

Moreover, whenever people tell me that sport has to be generally accepted as a necessary evil, I constantly think of rock-climbing — which is certainly a sport in the dictionary sense, but (except among fools with a death wish) also a very competitive. Good luck to Aberdeen.

Gomer baffled by aggressive Wood

From Barry Wood, Wellington

Sara Gomer, the Briton who last week reached the final of the New Zealand Open in Auckland, was defeated yesterday by her compatriot, Clare Wood, aged 19, in her opening match at the Fernhill Classic in Wellington.

Wood's 6-3, 6-3 defeat of the No. 7 seed provided yet another encouraging chapter in her development into one of Britain's finest competitors.

Gomer was more aggressive than Wood, and impressed particularly with her forceful ground strokes and early lob, which had the effect of unnerving her opponent.

"That made me reluctant to come into the net," Gomer admitted. "But I was also missing my forehand, which is one of my better shots."

Wood was anxious to prove that although ranked No. 164 in the world — to Gomer's 65 — she is by no means an inferior player. Certainly that was true on the day, as Wood used her skills more readily than Gomer.

Sarah Loomer had plenty of good ideas but not quite the ability to pull them off as she lost 6-3, 6-3 to Elizabeth Minter. She especially needs to work on

her approach shots, but these are early days yet for the schoolgirl, aged 16.

While competing on the tour she has had an additional burden of studying, and has not found it easy to turn her mind from tennis to mathematics.

"It's been so difficult after a match to go back and sit down with my calculator and get my brain to function," she said. "It's very tempting to give up studying and play full-time. I'll see how I cope when I go back."

"The trip has been great, and the high point was qualifying for the Australian Open. I would like to have played some more senior tournaments, but my ranking was high enough. But I have managed to improve my mid-court game, and that's the main thing I wanted to do."

RESULTS: First round (all unless stated): (1) Sara Gomer (GB) 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; (2) Clare Wood (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (3) Elizabeth Minter (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (4) Sarah Loomer (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (5) Sara Gomer (GB) 6-3, 6-3; (6) Clare Wood (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (7) Elizabeth Minter (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (8) Sarah Loomer (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (9) Sara Gomer (GB) 6-3, 6-3; (10) Clare Wood (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (11) Elizabeth Minter (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (12) Sarah Loomer (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (13) Sara Gomer (GB) 6-3, 6-3; (14) Clare Wood (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (15) Elizabeth Minter (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (16) Sarah Loomer (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (17) Sara Gomer (GB) 6-3, 6-3; (18) Clare Wood (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (19) Elizabeth Minter (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (20) Sarah Loomer (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (21) Sara Gomer (GB) 6-3, 6-3; (22) Clare Wood (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (23) Elizabeth Minter (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (24) Sarah Loomer (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (25) Sara Gomer (GB) 6-3, 6-3; (26) Clare Wood (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (27) Elizabeth Minter (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (28) Sarah Loomer (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; (29) Sara Gomer (GB) 6-3, 6-3; (30) Clare Wood (NZ) 6-3, 6-3; 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Dope-testing committee named

By Pat Butcher
Athletics Correspondent

The administrators of British athletics yesterday named their committee of enquiry into allegations of drug abuse, arising principally from articles in *The Times* in December.

The three-man committee is headed by Peter Coni, aged 52, a Queen's Counsel, Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple, chairman of Henley Royal Regatta, a leading sports administrator, and the instigator of the first random dope-testing scheme in British sport, for rowing in 1981.

Coni's committee is made up of Gilbert Kelland, aged 63, former Assistant Commissioner of Crime at New Scotland Yard and head of the inquiry into police associations with pornographers, which resulted in several convictions during the mid-seventies; and Dan Davies, aged 66, a retired Wing-Commander, who is treasurer of the Midlands Counties AAA, and a member of the AAA general committee.

The inquiry's terms of reference are to investigate allegations made by *The Times* newspaper against certain officials in athletics, and against the sport in general; to investigate wider allegations of drug abuse in British athletics; and to make recommendations to the British Amateur Athletic Board's Drug



Coni: instigator of dope-testing abuse sub-committee on testing procedures.

The inquiry is expected to begin its work within two weeks, and to report its findings by late spring.

There were reservations expressed privately yesterday among AAA officials at the choice of Kelland for the committee. During his time in the Metropolitan Police, he was the superior officer of Andy Norman, a central figure in the allegations reported in *The Times*.

Kelland said yesterday that he was the man responsible for giving Norman extra time off from his police job for AAA duties. He added: "It was only in the same way that anybody in the department, either an official or competitor, got time off to represent his country. I think my record speaks for itself."



Kelland: ex-Scotland Yard chief

Coni said: "I would be unhappy with Gilbert Kelland's nomination to the committee if his connection with Andy Norman wasn't known, and it came out later. But it's something everybody knows. It's quite hard to find people in sport, with his qualifications, who haven't had contact with other major figures."

Athletics magazines and the AAA's own newsletter will invite written submissions to the committee, "and by the end of February, we should be in a position to know whom to invite personally to give evidence," Coni said. He also indicated that he would interpret the inquiry team's brief widely enough to indicate disqualification from international representation for any athlete or official found to have



Davies: AAA general committee

transgressed the rules. On that point, Kelland said: "If people need to be suspended, they should be, not just slapped over the wrist and let off."

The principal allegations to be investigated are those detailed in three articles in *The Times*: the offer by meeting promoters to top athletes of immunity from drug testing; the prior warning to athletes of which places in which events would be drug tested; the provision of "clean" urine samples for tests; and the refusal to release details of positive tests.

Anyone wishing to write to the committee should send their submissions, in confidence, to Peter Coni, QC, 1 Grays Inn Square, London WC1.

THE COMMITTEE

Peter Coni QC

Chairman

Age: 52
Was responsible for instituting the Amateur Rowing Association's random dope-testing scheme, the first of its kind in Britain, in 1981. He is a member of the ARA executive committee, and chairman of Henley Royal Regatta. Coni was called to the bar in 1950, and became a QC in 1980. He is a Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple, and sits as a Deputy High Court Judge in the Family Division. He was awarded the OBE in 1987 for services to rowing.

Gilbert Kelland CBE

Age: 63

Former Chairman of the Metropolitan Police AAA, and the British Police AAA. A former Assistant Commissioner at New Scotland Yard, where he was responsible for the Special Branch and the anti-terrorist squad. Best known for leading the successful Humphreys inquiry into police associations with pornographers during the mid-seventies. His book, *Crime in London*, was published in 1985.

Wing Cdr

Dan Davies (ret'd)

Age: 66

Treasurer of the Midlands Counties AAA and vice-president of the Amateur Athletic Association. Served in the post-war Education Branch of the RAF until his retirement in 1976, when he was also vice-chairman of the RAF AAA. Chaired many RAF investigations.

Positive drug test figures to show a rise

By John Goodbody

There was a record number of positive drug tests in British sport in 1987. I understand that figures to be announced shortly by the Sports Council will show that about 150 competitors were tested positive.

The Government subsidised the testing of 4,000 competitors last year, and this number will rise even higher with the implementation of the independent testing programme from April 1. The ratio of positive results from all tests was nearly four per cent, compared with approximately 2.5 per cent in 1986.

Part of the rise is due to the greater number of proscribed drugs and also the increase in competitors whose urine has been analysed.

Dr David Cowan, the associate director of the drugs control centre at King's College, London University, which carries out the testing for the Sports Council, said yesterday: "I am disappointed that we are not reducing the

number of positives. "But I am pleased that the International Olympic Committee is now banning the use of HCG, which at long last recognises the work in the United Kingdom."

Many competitors have ceased taking anabolic steroids immediately before a competition to avoid drugs tests and have switched to HCG to maintain their physical level. HCG is human chorionic gonadotropin, which maintains or elevates the level of testosterone and stops the withdrawal effects when a competitor comes off other hormone drugs.

The British results parallel the West German figures of 111 positive tests, and a ratio of 4.41 per cent, announced this week by Professor Manfred Donike, of Cologne.

Prof Donike also revealed that there were five cases involving probenecid, a drug used to mask anabolic steroids in the body.

Wales silent on successor as England goes

By Clive White

Mike England put forward the name of David Williams, a Norwich City player-coach, as the "ideal man" to succeed him as Wales manager after the Football Association of Wales announced yesterday that England's eight-year reign was over. But the FA of Wales will have their own ideas as to who should replace him and they were giving away no clues yesterday, perhaps because they had none to give.

"The council didn't take the decision to sack England because they had someone up their sleeve, that would have been unfair, not to mention unethical. They simply thought it was time to make the change," Alan Evans, the secretary, said after announcing that the council's 27 members had voted to terminate England's contract with still five months to run. England becomes the first manager ever to be sacked by Wales.

A three-man sub-committee, consisting of Evans, Doug Sharpe, the Swansea City chairman, and Jack Evans, the chairman of the senior international committee, has been appointed to find a successor, which they expect to do before the council meets again on February 24. If not they are prepared to go into next month's game against Yugoslavia with a caretaker manager, who could well be Terry Casey, the director of coaching and development.

Evans revealed that three

managers of "known quality" had already offered their services in expectation of England's departure, but he said that the sub-committee had not discussed anyone's name yet and had still to decide whether to advertise the post or draw up their own short-list. The Swansea chairman indicated that they were looking for "someone currently in management with a Football League club," but ruled out the possibility of his own manager, Terry Yorath, doing both jobs because of extra responsibilities that Yorath had at the Vetch Field.

On the question of appointing someone already in employment Evans said: "We're testing that particular water for the first time. It will determine how attractive managing a national team is."

There is no obvious favourite to take over. It is unlikely that the FA of Wales will act on the advice of England, whom they believed had repeatedly disappointed them when it came to qualification for major finals. Since England took over, Wales have failed to qualify for the final stages of two world cups and two European championships.

Nevertheless Williams must be a front runner. "David is first class man and a good coach. He enjoys the respect of players and most people in football," England said. Respect — at least from the players — is one quality that John Toshack, a leading can-

didate, does not appear to have after angering the Welsh players with derogatory remarks about the manager and the team before Wales's abortive attempt in Prague last November to qualify for the European championships. Bob Paisley, who applied unsuccessfully for the job of manager to the Republic of Ireland, also ruled himself out of the running yesterday, while it is hard to believe that fellow Englishmen like Brian Clough and Lawrie McMenemy would be interested in a position commanding little more than £10,000 a year.

A dark horse could be Peter Shreeve, the former Tottenham Hotspur manager, who has enjoyed enormous success this season as coach to Queen's Park Rangers.

The end of England's association with Wales, for whom he was capped 44 times as a player, was not without some bitterness. "There were a few knives out for me. There was a lot of political wrangling in the FAW. And those who were against me had a chance to have a go at me. I hope my successor gets more support from the secretary than I did. I think he spoke to me six times in five years."

Notts reward

The former Nottinghamshire player, Richard Hadlee and Clive Rice, who retired from English cricket at the end of the season, have been made vice-presidents of the club.

Rebel clubs meet Minister

Three football clubs, Southampton, Wimbledon and Fulham, will today tell the Minister for Sport, Colin Moynihan, that a 50 per cent membership scheme is unwelcome.

The Southampton secretary, Brian Truscott, said yesterday: "You can't stipulate that every club has a 50 per cent membership capacity."

It's just not workable because every ground is not the same.

"We have carried out the recommendations of a working party which visited the ground in the summer. We have police backing on the issue and we are surprised to be called before the Minister."

Southampton are believed to have been the first League club to institute a membership

scheme when they opened a family centre in 1977.

Wimbledon's argument is likely to be that with their small average gates, a membership scheme involving half their capacity is not necessary. Fulham are believed to be against the scheme because of the uncertainty over their lease at Craven Cottage and, again, the small size of their crowds.



Sunday punch: Tony Silson goes to work on the heavy bag, watched by his trainer, Ken Squires, as they prepare for a controversial meeting in Stafford with Frank Tate, the IBF world middleweight champion. Warren's legal move, page 39

Shaw on loan to Blackpool

Gary Shaw joins the third division team, Blackpool, on loan from Aston Villa today in what amounts to a make-or-break move in his injury-ravaged career (Chris Moore writes).

The former England under-21 forward has undergone six knee operations in the last four and a half years.

Although optimistic that he has made a full recovery, Shaw has been substitute 17 times this season, winning selection for only two of Villa's first-team matches.

"The time has come for me to get my career going again," Shaw said. A key figure in Villa's League Championship and European Cup triumphs, he is expected to make his debut for Blackpool in Saturday's game against Brighton at Bloomfield Road.

"I have wanted to take a loan spell for quite some time because I need regular first team football. But because of the general injury situation at Villa Park, the manager has not been able to let me go."

Robson seeks a Venables deal

Bobby Robson, the England manager, is hoping to arrive at a "gentlemen's agreement" with the Tottenham Hotspur manager, Terry Venables, over the release of the club's England players for the international match against Israel in Tel Aviv on February 17.

The London club has arranged a match against Monaco on February 15 and the England manager accepts that this automatically rules out Glenn Hoddle from his squad, saying: "Glenn returning to White Hart Lane is the whole point of the match."

But the England manager is anxious to take as strong a squad as possible to Israel and is therefore hoping that Venables will release at least one of Tottenham's England trio of Clive Allen, Waddle and Mabbutt.

The former Barcelona manager has been back in Spain this week on personal business and Robson admitted: "I have been trying to make contact with Terry. I'm trying to get

some sort of compromise with him."

Robson may have urgent need of Allen's services because of doubts over the availability of Lineker. England's number one striker is expected to be required by Barcelona for a Spanish Cup semi-final second leg against Osasuna on February 17, but the fact he was not included in their squad for last night's first leg raised fresh doubts over Lineker's short and longer term position at the club.

Robson however is not optimistic as far as the Israel game is concerned, admitting: "I don't think we will get Lineker. I know he's not in their squad tonight but a lot can happen in two weeks."

Venables, meanwhile, will need all his bargaining skills to tempt either Barcelona or Norwich City to part with players he wants.

An offer of £600,000 for Kevin Driscoll, the Norwich goalkeeper, who Venables has admired since he was manager of Queens Park Rangers, will not be enough to take him to White Hart Lane.

N Ireland 'sure of players'

David Bowen, the Irish Football Association secretary, envisages no problem with the release of players for Northern Ireland's World Cup warm-up international against Greece in Athens on February 17 — three days before the fifth round matches are scheduled to be played in the FA Cup (George Ace writes).

Fears had been expressed that Billy Bingham could be without several players for the trip to Athens on account of the proximity of the FA Cup ties. But Bowen dismissed them yesterday. At Windsor Park — on Tuesday night Linfield lost 2-0 to Glenrath in a league game on a night of incessant rain and an icy wind.

Linfield shed some composure when Spiers sent a header past his own goalkeeper, Dunlop, in the 35th minute. Dunlop claims the second was an own-goal, too, Mooney knocking the ball in.

Glenrath go clear at the top of the table, one point ahead of Coleraine.

END COLUMN

Violent but a giant of a game

By Simon Barnes

Has this man no consistency, I hear you ask? One week I'm in Atlantic City clamouring for the abolition of boxing after the Holmes-Tyson contest and a week after I am in San Diego, writing with apparent enthusiasm about one of the most violent sports ever invented, American football.

For a start, I do not think I can seriously set about writing a complete justification of American football. It is a deeply flawed sport: the violent, militaristic, Prussian nature of the game can be fairly revolting. No one can be truly happy with the game's obsession with gluttony. Because of it, an enormously high percentage of the players are more or less required to use anabolic steroids according to the estimates of dispassionate observers.

As many as 40 per cent use steroids, says Dr. J. Players' fight against the possibility of a programme of mandatory drug-testing. And it is regularly claimed that American footballers have a drastically reduced life expectancy; about 55 is the usual figure offered.

Again, the injury rate is not something that anyone can talk about with pride: most particularly with high school football, with mismatches of size that can cause serious accidents and death. This is not a safe game for boys. Rugby football has similar problems.

But all the same, I find American football a marvellous, exhilarating game at its best. For I am not against dangerous sports, or against sports that have physical confrontations. A direct physical confrontation is at the heart of much that happens in cricket: you ask Dennis Lillee, or Dennis Amis, for that matter.

A sport without physical danger is completely different from a safe sport. A sport without any danger lacks a certain something. I continue to ride horses and play cricket: both are great things to do. But I continue to oppose boxing, whose aim is to cause injury and concussion. The aim in American football is to score touchdowns.

You get badly hurt in both games and you may think that American football steps beyond the limits of acceptable violence in sport. But the score of the Super Bowl was 42 points to 10: the score of the Tyson-Holmes fight was one concussion to nil. I think that makes the crucial difference. American football is morally a completely different game.

And there is a further point: an emotional one. The great moment of American football is when it all works and the receiver is soaring into the air to pluck the ball from the fingertips of his marker and plunge into the end zone: this sudden explosion of perfection and grace is heart-lifting, surely what sport is all about.

There are moments when you see Concorde fly past of an evening over west London and you are so struck by its beauty that for a moment its cost no longer matters. It's beautiful, triumphant, heart-lifting.

In the same way American football, for all its nonsense, is a true sport: it is that provides moments that fill you with joy and make you cheer the miracles that brilliant men can work. And isn't that really the point of sport?

New president of Pakistan cricket named

Islamabad (Reuters) — The Pakistan Government yesterday named another army general, Zahid Ali Akbar, to head the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP).

Lieutenant-General Akbar replaced Lt-Gen Gulam Safdar Butt, who retired after holding office since 1984. He is expected to take charge from February 10.

Last year, Butt retired from the army, but continued as the president of the BCCP when Pakistan and India jointly hosted the World Cup late in the year.

Pakistani cricket has passed through a traumatic period since then, with the short-lived retirement of captain Imran Khan and a highly publicized umpiring dispute during England's tour here.

A report by England's Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) criticized Butt for his failure to resolve the Pakistan problem "fairly and equitably".

Imran came out of retirement last month after an appeal by President Zia of Pakistan and agreed to lead his country on the forthcoming tour of the West Indies.

Morgan in great form

Robert Morgan, Britain's brilliant Welsh high board diving champion, has enhanced his Olympic medal prospects with two outstanding personal best achievements in the Southern Cross series in New Zealand and Australia. In Hamilton, New Zealand, he won the silver medal behind the Chinese World Cup champion, Tong Hui, with a personal best score of 611.7 points, the first time he has exceeded 600 points.

In the subsequent tournament in Sydney, Australia, he improved even further with 620.79 points, believed to be the highest all-time score by a British high board diver.

Ton up

Bendigo, Australia (Reuters) — An unbeaten century by Asanka Gurusingha helped Sri Lanka to an easy 110-run victory over a Victorian country XI here yesterday. Gurusingha, batting at No. 3, played the bowling for 116 runs off only 104 balls as the Sri Lankans reached 262 for five in their 50 overs. In reply the country team were dismissed for 152.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Knowles clear

Stuart Knowles has been given medical clearance to represent Great Britain in the luge competitions in the winter Olympics at Calgary later this month, despite breaking his left arm last weekend.

Setback

Seoul (AP) — Park Chong-pai, of South Korea, has been stripped of his International Boxing Federation super-middleweight title for his failure to make a mandatory title defence, Park's handlers said yesterday.

Title chance

Paris (Reuters) — Fabrice Benichou, of France, the European bantamweight boxing champion, has been promised a chance of the International Boxing Federation title. Benichou will be offered a bout against the winner of Saturday's IBF championship meeting here between the holder, Kelvin Seabrooks, of the United States, and the Mexican, Fernando Beltran.

Unveiling

A sculpture commemorating Sondre Norheim, the legendary Norwegian-born skier known as the father of modern skiing, has been unveiled by King Olav V in Morgedal.

NZ could deny Budd entry for world race

Wellington, New Zealand (Agencies) — Zola Budd could be denied entry with the British team into New Zealand next month for the world cross-country championships.

Opposition to Budd's participation is growing in the host country. New Zealand's immigration minister, Stan Rodger, has the power to refuse a visitor's permit to Budd, formerly of South Africa but now a British citizen, a spokesman said yesterday.

The anti-apartheid spokesman, John Minto, said that Budd should be banned under the same legislation which prevented Mandy Rice-Davies entering New Zealand following her involvement in the Profumo sex scandal of the 1960s. On Tuesday New Zealand's Minister for Sport and Recreation, Peter Tapscott, said that Budd would not be welcome in Auckland.

Tapscott also said that she could not legally be refused entry because she had a valid British passport. The anti-apartheid group said she could be banned for the reason given in the Rice-Davies case: "that her entry was likely to offend a substantial section of the people in this country".

SA may overturn ruling to allow Louw's return

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

South Africa, having sailed close to the wind of International Board (IB) suspension over the last 18 months by accepting two un-

authorized tours by teams from New Zealand and the South Pacific, appear ready to overturn a fundamental principle of rugby union by reinstating Rob Louw after he has spent two years playing rugby league with Wigan.

It was announced in Cape Town yesterday that the South African Rugby Board (SARB) had discovered a loophole in the amateur regulations which will permit Louw, capped 19 times as a Springbok flanker before he signed professional forms, to play rugby union again.

Alec Powell, chairman of the SARB disciplinary committee, said: "There is a clause in the IB constitution stating that the armed forces are allowed to use players who have been declared professional. This dates back to 1914."

Louw used to serve to the South African navy and is still on the reserve list; thus, it is argued, he can play for Defence, one of Cape Town's

leading clubs which is primarily for servicemen. He will be allowed to play and coach, but not above club level.

Danie Craven, the SARB chairman and one of South Africa's IB representatives, who declared when Louw and Ray Mordt, the former Springbok wing, went professional that they had excommunicated themselves permanently from rugby union, said: "I am glad for Rob's sake that he can play again and make a contribution."

But the clause to which the SARB refers, which was composed to cover emergency conditions in time of war, clearly states that exceptions are made only for full-time (my italics) serving members of the armed forces in a team composed entirely of such players (which would exclude the police here).

Air Commodore Bob Weighill, the IB secretary, said yesterday: "There is no doubt in my mind that he (Louw) is permanently ineligible. Louw has played rugby league football for money and in my opinion cannot be reinstated."